

Arab leaders urged at Cairo summit to send in troops to protect Saudi Arabia

Saddam calls for holy war against West

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

RESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday called for a holy war against Western forces in the Gulf and to overthrow all the traditional rulers of the region.

"Your brothers in Iraq are determined on jihad without hesitation and without slowing down," he said. "Burn the soil under the feet of the aggressors and invaders who want to harm your families in Iraq. Hit their interests wherever they are."

President Saddam's call for a holy war came as Arab leaders meeting in Cairo were asked to send an Arab force to protect Saudi Arabia and other states against attack.

A draft resolution to the summit urged a response to "a request from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states to transfer Arab forces to support their armed forces in defence of their land and territorial integrity against any foreign aggression".

The draft was deliberately asked to journalists in Egypt in response to President Saddam's address, which raised tensions to a new level with a call for ordinary Arabs to rebel against their rulers.

President Saddam, whose statement was read on Baghdad television and radio by a spokesman, said the people should sweep from power the "enemies of oil" and take back the two holiest Islamic shrines at Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. He also called on Egyptians to bar Western military fleets from the Suez canal.

"The American forces came and Saudi Arabia opened its doors to them under the false pretext that the Iraqi army will move towards them," he said. "It means there are plans for aggressive intentions. The joint policy with the foreigner has become exposed."

"Rise up, so that the voice of right can be heard in the Arab nation. Rebel against all attempts to humiliate Mecca, take it clear to your rulers, the enemies of oil, as they serve the foreigner, tell them the raiders there is no place for them on Arab soil after they

have humiliated Arab honour and dignity."

The Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, who is attending the Arab League summit, had earlier insisted that the United States must withdraw its forces from the Gulf so that Arabs could find their own solution. He denied that Iraq posed any threat to Saudi Arabia and said talk of an attack was "a pretext used to justify the invasion of American troops".

The summit opened with a plea from the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, for an Arab solution to the crisis. "Seizing land by force is harmful and weakens the

returned to the session after treatment."

The desperate Arab efforts to find an internal solution were supported yesterday by President Gorbachev, who sent President Mubarak a message saying: "The Arab League, as an influential regional organisation which has much experience in settling inter-Arab disputes, must actively take up the challenge caused by the conflict." But the disarray that led to a 17-hour delay in the start of the summit and President Saddam's inflammatory speech lessened the chances of any compromise being found to prevent eventual armed conflict in the Gulf.

America, which yesterday warned its diplomats to be on alert for terrorist attacks, continued to build up its forces and Pentagon officials said there were contingency plans for the deployment of up to 250,000 men in the Gulf. Three squadrons of A10 anti-tank planes were said to be preparing to leave the United States yesterday, along with a brigade of the 24th Mechanised Division and two 1,000-bed hospital ships. Large numbers of marines were being mobilised in California.

France ordered 3,500 men to the Gulf in a seven-ship force led by the aircraft carrier Clemenceau; Germany is sending four minesweepers to the Mediterranean to replace American warships that have left for the Gulf. Canada is sending two destroyers, a supply vessel, and Australia has ordered two guided missile frigates to join the armada of some fifty warships in the region.

President Bush, however, continued to express the hope that a peaceful solution could be found. He officially notified Congress of the deployment of American forces yesterday, saying he did not think conflict was imminent. UN intelligence reports said that a further 50,000 Iraqi troops were heading towards Kuwait, but that the 120,000 already there had adopted a "defensive posture" and appeared primarily concerned to consolidate their hold on that country.

"I do not believe involvement in hostilities is imminent," he said in his message to Congress. "To the contrary, it is my belief that this deployment will facilitate a peaceful resolution of the crisis." The president underlined his optimism by leaving for his New England holiday home. He is expected to be away from Washington for several days.



Nations vary, page 2



Signs of the times: sailors from HMS York hold messages for loved ones as they wave to a helicopter in the Gulf

Nato shies away from joining US-led blockade

By ANDREW MCEWEN AND MICHAEL EVANS

BRITAIN remained the only country directly assisting the United States in the defence of Saudi Arabia yesterday, despite announcements that other countries are to contribute to a multinational task force.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said after a Nato meeting in Brussels that they expected about six countries to make announcements soon. But the contributions by Nato nations so far have not been as direct as Washington would have liked. With the exception of West Germany, the other countries want to help but without being linked to Washington. The multinational force proposed by Washington could turn out to be virtually a US-British exercise.

The reluctance probably reflects fears that the Arab world will see the US-British operation as an act of imperialism. This concern lay behind an announcement that the Western European Union is to meet to discuss the Gulf situation. The nine-nation body is made up of countries which belong to both Nato

and the European Community, but excludes the United States. There is speculation that the union may organise a European Gulf operation, which would enable its members to contribute to the defence of the Gulf without being linked with the effort spearheaded by Washington. France, which is to host the union meeting, announced that it will send to the Gulf seven warships, led by an aircraft carrier, with a total of 3,500 military personnel. This is more than the British force, but will remain separate from the US operation. President Mitterrand made it clear that French ships will remain under French command. European diplomats, however, believe that he would be prepared to link-up with a European force.

The 32,000-tonne Clemenceau is expected to sail from the southern port of Toulon next Monday, with 16 Super Etendard fighters. It will be escorted by the guided-missile cruiser, Colbert, and the fleet tanker, Var.

There were signs yesterday that Belgium, Canada, Spain and the Netherlands, might also deploy some of their forces, but no promises appear to have been made that they will be linked to the US initiative.

West Germany announced that it will send four minesweepers and a supply vessel to the Mediterranean. They will take over from US vessels leaving for the Gulf. Hans Klein, a government spokesman, said the mission was "a contribution of solidarity with the efforts of our allies to stabilise the situation in the Gulf".

Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, said three frigates and a supply ship would be sent to take part in any international blockade. New Zealand and Japan might also become involved.

Defence cuts hit Devonport dock

By KEVIN EASON

MORE than 1,400 workers at the Devonport Royal Dockyard yesterday became the first casualties of the government's cutbacks in defence spending.

Devonport Management Ltd, which took over control of Britain's largest warship repair yard from the government in 1987, said it was forced to make the redundancies because of the "steep decline" in orders from the Navy. Even a defence ministry decision to allocate extra contracts to the yard at Plymouth, Devon, for refits to three Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels was not enough to support the current workforce.

Defence cuts were also blamed for the closure of the George Blair foundry in Newcastle upon Tyne with the loss of 156 jobs, which suffered a slump in demand for tank components.

Three years ago, the 300-acre Devonport repair yard employed 11,250 — a figure

now reduced to 7,100. Mike Leece, DML's managing director, said that the company planned to support a workforce of 6,450 but that was abandoned after the government's latest defence review made it clear that orders would continue to decline.

The workforce will now be trimmed to 5,000 by March, 1991, with job losses affecting all departments. Redundancy payments of as much as £30,000 for the longest serving staff will be funded by the MoD.

Devonport is the first significant victim of the decision to reduce defence spending following the easing of tensions with the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc. Included in the savings is a plan to scrap nine ageing ships and submarines later this year.

The strategic importance of Devonport has been underlined in the last week as the government mobilises ships for the Gulf.

Workers back power buyout

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

POWER workers yesterday backed a management-employee buyout of PowerGen, the country's second-largest power company, and threatened strike action if the government sold the company to any third party without certain guarantees.

The Government intends to privatise PowerGen, either through a public share flotation or a straight sale, with Hanson the favoured bidder. The breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers, headed by Roy Lytk, has put together its own £1.5 billion package with the backing of Legal & General, one of the City's biggest institutions.

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Full report, page 32

Smith 121 keeps Test hopes high

A CENTURY by Robin Smith, followed by a fine spell of bowling by Angus Fraser, enabled England to maintain a firm grip on India on the second day of the Old Trafford Test match.

India finished the day at 77 for three in reply to England's 519, all three wickets having fallen to Fraser, who claimed Sidhu, Shastri and Vengsarkar inside his first nine overs. Two of the Indian batsmen were caught in the slips by Gooch.

After the leg spinners Hirwani and Kumble had threatened to bowl India back into the game, Smith thwarted them with his fourth Test match hundred. Malcolm joined him at 76 and they added 60 for the tenth wicket, Smith finishing 121 not out.

Match report, page 23

Saturday Review

Some fresh impressions



Impressionist painters changed the way we see the world. A fascinating look at their source material

Will the real Rothschild ..?

The greatest Rothschild of all? Barbara Amiel pursues the enigmatic Jacob, patrician, banker and entrepreneur

About that car you're wearing

Liz Smith meets the fashion designer who finds inspiration in leather trim from classic cars

Mind challenge

A delicate wine glass breaks if it falls six inches, but is intact after falling 60 feet. Try our mind challenge on the Games Page

WEEKEND LIVING

A dead poet and society



Tomorrow is the anniversary of William Blake's death. Here are those who believe he deserves wider recognition

Unveiling in the Square

The critics' verdict as the wraps come off the refurbished Grand Buildings in Trafalgar Square

SPORT

Nick Faldo's final test



Latest reports as Nick Faldo bids for the last grand slam title of the season, the US PGA, and the Indian reply to another big England cricket score

WEEKEND MONEY

Brookes, no argument

Sir Nigel Brookes gets his own way because he is always right, he tells Carol Leonard

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Roll up, roll up to the great Gulf fun park

By STEPHEN LEATHER

THE Department of Trade and Industry is trying to drum up support for a £30 million amusement park to be built in Saudi Arabia. It suggests that British firms contact the Riyadh Al Ammariyah Project in Saudi Arabia if they want to take part in the development.

"The project, which will cost more than £30 million and which the owners hope will open in 1992, will comprise landscaped gardens, shops, restaurants, motels, waterfalls, an artificial lake and river, a zoo, go-karts, tourist submarines, air-conditioned boats, cable cars, trains etc — all built on an area of one million square metres," the DTI says.

"Even at this early stage, the company — of unknown financial standing but with influential backers

— would like to hear from UK consultants and equipment suppliers in the field of amusement parks. They would also welcome approaches from a financial services organisation capable of running the project."

The DTI said it had no more details about what it describes as akin to a "Disneyworld" in Saudi Arabia. "You'd have to ask the Saudis," a DTI press officer said. "Wouldn't you rather speak to Riyadh?"

The project manager of the amusement park, Mr Ibrahim Madbouli, said that despite what was happening in the Gulf, he hoped to begin construction work in January next year.

Speaking from Riyadh, he said the project had the backing of a group of businessmen and Saudi princes and that land had been earmarked for the project about 20 miles from the

diplomatic quarter. The park will have the only 10 km artificial river in the Middle East, together with 150,000 square metres of aquarium. He also plans a safari zoo and has asked 20 countries, including Britain, to contribute cultural exhibits.

"Many have agreed in principle and will be confirming by the end of September," said Mr Madbouli. Asked if the prospect of American troops arriving in Saudi Arabia threatened the project, he said: "Not at all. When all this is over it will give them somewhere to go to relax," he said.

Roger England of CIVIX, the London-based planning and design firm which has already been retained by MCA as part of its plans for a massive Universal Studios project to be built either in southern England or in France, has expressed an interest.

"Obviously things are not as bad as they seem and Her Majesty's Government isn't worried about Saudi Arabia at all," he said. Nor is he pessimistic about the prospects for the Gulf region. Last month he put in a proposal for a hospital in Kuwait. "Things have got to improve," he said.

● Royal fleet: Storacar, the Buckinghamshire company which takes care of the Saudi Arabian royal family's fleet of stretched limousines based in Europe, have had eight calls from the Gulf states since the invasion of Kuwait last week (Robin Young writes). Customers wanting to move their cars out of the danger zone have arranged to airlift two Lamborghinis to the company's "hotel for fine automobiles" at Newport Pagnell. Other collectors' vehicles are being sent by sea.

Nations wary of direct involvement in Gulf force

By Andrew McEwen and a Correspondent in Brussels

THE United States and Britain appeared yesterday to be having difficulties in persuading other Nato and European Community nations to join in a multinational Gulf force.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday they were hopeful that about six countries would commit units to the multinational force. But the contributions announced yesterday took a less direct form.

West Germany is to contribute by sending four minesweepers to the Mediterranean to take over from US ships leaving for the Gulf. France will provide a large force, but it will remain separate. Spain, Italy and Portugal will allow the US to use bases on their territory as staging posts. But hopes in Washington and London that the West would act together have only partly materialized.

Mr Baker and Mr Hurd appeared optimistic, and the foreign secretary said it was remarkable how quickly and effectively the international community had responded. But his unstated disappointment emerged when he said that Britain would not give up its role even if others did not take part.

Mr Baker said he was hopeful there would be announcements about military commitments from Germany, Belgium, and Canada within the next few weeks. It was clear, however, that the response was not what US officials had originally envisaged.

When President Bush announced on Wednesday that he had sent US forces to the Gulf, American officials made it clear that they hoped for support from both Arab and

Nato countries. It was not, however, to be a Nato operation, because the Alliance is forbidden by its charter from operating outside the European and Atlantic area.

Mr Baker apparently knew that he would make slow progress before yesterday's meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels. It appears that the other Western allies were worried by strong anti-American reactions in the Arab world. Although several countries were willing to play their part, they wanted to keep a diplomatic distance from Washington.

Only Britain and to some extent West Germany will be seen as direct partners with the US. Bonn argues that it is prohibited by its Basic Law from operating outside the Nato area, but will send four minesweepers to the Mediterranean to take over roles from US vessels.

Nothing was said about this at the Nato meeting, nor at a separate meeting of European Community foreign ministers, but it was implicit in statements afterwards.

The Nato foreign ministers said they fully supported the military action in the Gulf, and would all contribute in their own ways to stopping further Iraqi aggression.

They made it clear that they would come to the defence of the alliance if it were attacked by Iraq, but this was a treaty obligation.

The ministers of the Community also implicitly supported the US-British action in the Gulf, describing it as "useful steps". They said they were willing to take "further initiatives in the framework of the United Nations charter that will prove necessary to contain the conflict".

Mitterrand sends seven warships

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent, and Ian Murray in Bonn

PRESIDENT Mitterrand of France announced yesterday he was sending to the Gulf seven warships, led by an aircraft carrier, with a total of 3,500 military personnel, the second largest Western military force despatched to the region since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait last week.

There were signs yesterday that more Nato countries, Belgium, Canada, Spain and the Netherlands, might also deploy some of their armed forces to back the American stand against further Iraqi aggression.

The size of the French contingent, which is larger than Britain's offer of naval and air units announced on Thursday, reflected growing fears in Paris over the Iraqi military build-up in Kuwait and the fate of about 530 French nationals trapped in Iraq and Kuwait.

The 32,000-tonne Clemenceau, one of France's two aircraft carriers, with 16 Super Etendard fighters, is expected to sail from the southern port of Toulon next Monday, escorted by the guided-missile cruiser Colbert and the fleet tanker Var.

On arriving in the Gulf region in two weeks, they will raise the total French military presence to seven ships and 3,500 sailors, airmen and soldiers.

France will co-ordinate with a US-led multinational force in the Gulf but not belong to it, President Mitterrand said. French ships will remain under French command. The destroyer Montcalm has already left Toulon, following its sister ship Duplex to the Gulf area. The Duplex will arrive on August 15, joining the frigates Proiet and Commandant Ducuing which are already there.

President Mitterrand also promised to send military supplies and advisers to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states if Arab peace efforts failed. France sees no direct military role for Nato in the Gulf crisis and has no plans to join US forces in Saudi Arabia.

Yesterday West Germany announced it would send a flotilla of four or five minesweepers and a supply vessel to the eastern Mediterranean to deal with any mine-laying in international sea lanes there. Hans Klein, the government spokesman, said the mission was "a contribution of solidarity with the efforts of our allies to stabilise the situation in the Gulf".

The government appears divided, however, over whether the ships might be sent further afield. According to Herr Klein, sending the



Frontier block: This photograph, taken through the rear window of a taxi returning from a closed post on the Iraqi-Jordanian border, shows a convoy of vehicles halted by Iraqi forces. Their occupants, including several Western travellers, were ordered out of the cars and marched away to an unknown destination.

UK rejects demand to shut embassy in Kuwait

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

AMID growing concern over 5,000 Britons trapped in Kuwait and Iraq, the government yesterday rejected an order by the Iraqi authorities to close its embassy.

"We do not recognise the annexation of Kuwait. This is a clearly illegal act. We do not propose to close the embassy," a Foreign Office spokesman said. The other 11 European Community nations have

taken the same decision and the Twelve are to make a joint diplomatic approach to Baghdad. Japan is also refusing to close its embassy.

If the diplomats were forced to leave, contact with thousands of Britons and other Europeans trapped in Kuwait could be lost. As the internal telephone lines have been cut off, the 22 British embassy staff depend on wardens who report on the welfare of people living near them. This would

be unworkable if the diplomats were in Baghdad.

"The purposes of the Iraqi government in making this announcement are not clear.

We and our allies are pressing for clarification," the spokesman said. "Our aim is to keep our diplomatic staff there as long as possible to provide consular protection."

After research which involved the wardens, the Foreign Office yesterday raised its estimate of the number of

Britons in Kuwait from 3,000 to 4,000. The US State Department said there were about 3,000 Americans in Kuwait and 580 in Iraq.

America, Canada, Australia, and all EC nations have been told that their nationals may not leave. The Foreign Office does not yet regard them as hostages, but there are fears that taking them hostage could be Iraq's intention. "We believe that all members of the British community are well

and morale is good," the spokesman said.

The Foreign Office cut its estimate of the number of British residents in Iraq from 2,000 to 500, reflecting those out of the country on holiday and the success of others in leaving before the borders were closed. In addition to the residents the Foreign Office is aware of 46 British visitors and 90 people who were moved by the Iraqi authorities from Kuwait to Iraq.

Divisions on deficit add to US burdens

From Peter Stothard, US Editor in Washington

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein may have united the US over the defence of Saudi Arabia but he has reopened divisions over the economy. The second achievement, according to observers in Washington yesterday, may be of much greater long-term significance than the first.

Currently it is considered unpatriotic for the left to attack the military build-up. For right-wing critics of President Bush's economic management, the threat to oil supplies is, however, a golden opportunity to argue the case against tax increases and budget deals and to reimpose the Reagan doctrine of tax cuts and deficit blindness.

Although the negotiations between Congress and administration to cut the budget deficit have been shelved for the summer recess, the president continues to stress the need for a bipartisan path towards the mandatory deficit figure of \$64 billion (£34 billion) called for by the Gramm-Rudman law. The position of the majority within the administration is first to pretend that recessionary forces are still far away, and second to keep President Saddam and high oil prices as a useful scapegoat in case economic disaster does come.

But, at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, the administration's last Reaganite, Jack Kemp, the housing and development secretary, said that a policy of higher taxes in order to help meet the Gramm-Rudman targets would be folly. According to his supporters, the American economy is already in a recession and the people will not be fooled into blaming President Saddam. President Bush, by being prepared to raise taxes now, is taking the road to defeat trod by Herbert Hoover they say.

Mr Kemp called for a reassertion of the president's capital-gains tax cut which Congress has already rejected. As a quid pro quo for the Democrats, he is thought to favour a modified version of Daniel Moynihan's plan to cut social security taxes and end the practice of using welfare surpluses to hide the true size of the deficit.

He received no immediate support for these views. Richard Darman, the budget director, restated the case for a successful budget summit to bring down the vast pile of debt which, he believes, is the main force crushing the economy.

Some White House aides hope the new national unity will make the budget summit easier. The Democrats, they argue, will be more flexible in allowing spending reductions, even though the prospect of an energy tax or certain defence cuts has fallen because of events in the Middle East. Still more importantly, they hope that the Federal Reserve Bank will ease the money supply to pay for the deal. According to the right, however, this will lead to recession and inflation.

Moscow leadership keeps low profile in forsaking old ally

From Mary Deevsky in Moscow

PRESIDENT Bush postponed a trip to Latin America, Mrs Thatcher returned home early from Colorado, and yesterday came the first hint that President Gorbachev had modified his summer plans in order to monitor Gulf developments.

In a letter to members of the Young Pioneers communist youth organisation on holiday in the Crimea, Mr Gorbachev declined an invitation to meet them "in view of existing circumstances". This oblique reference was the first report of the Soviet leader's activity since a short announcement last weekend that he and President Mitterrand had a telephone conversation about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr Gorbachev has been on holiday in the Crimea since the beginning of the month and the signs are that he intends to stay there.

In terms of geographical proximity, it is not a bad vantage point, but his absence from Moscow does not give the Soviet public any sense of their president as a hands-on crisis manager.

Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime

minister, is taking a prominent role in economic affairs during Mr Gorbachev's absence from Moscow, but neither his vice-president, Anatoli Lukyanov, nor his deputy in the Communist party, Vladimir Ivashko, is in evidence. Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, is reported to be keeping in close contact with his US counterpart, but day-to-day diplomacy is being handled by one of his deputies, Aleksandr Belonogov.

The military is lying very low. Its first official statement came yesterday from Rear-Admiral Karlin, head of the navy's political directorate, who said that the service was ready to evacuate Soviet citizens from Kuwait if necessary, but had no plans to take part in an international naval blockade.

The low-profile of the top leadership and Moscow's stated reluctance to join any action against Iraq which is not co-ordinated by the United Nations may not be unexpected.

The magnitude of the current crisis and the speed with

which it has escalated have tended to obscure how sharply Moscow has reversed its Middle East policy. To hear Iraq accused of "aggression" and "invasion" — both words are being used without qualification by Soviet officials — has come as a shock to the Soviet public.

Russians would still find it hard to stomach the idea that Soviet warships should steam in convoy behind American vessels against their erstwhile friends. Soviet participation in UN-sponsored military action would require far less psychological adjustment.

While the idea that Moscow has forsaken Iraq will take some getting used to, there are sound, practical reasons for the Soviet decision which go beyond the high-flown rhetoric of upholding "sovereignty, national independence and territorial integrity", that figured so prominently in the statement issued on Thursday by the Soviet foreign ministry.

On the face of it, Moscow had much to lose: a large market for its arms, a powerful ally in a volatile part of the

world to offset Western interests in Saudi Arabia and Israel, and an ideological supporter at international forums. However, recent Soviet reports show the arms trade was less lucrative than was believed. Most were sold on credit, according to one bitter commentator, to nations far better off than the Soviet Union.

Moscow's need for Middle East allies was clear, but its choice, as so often, was distorted either by ideology or blinkered rivalry with the US. It repeatedly found itself allied with the poor against the rich and successful, which only aggravated its own economic problems.

The "new thinking" by Mr Gorbachev in foreign policy entailed an attempted rapprochement with the pro-Western states in the Middle East. Continued friendship with Iraq, however, hindered overtures to Iran and impaired traditionally good relations with Syria because Damascus took Iran's side in the Gulf war, and was largely an anachronism.

French involvement brings calculated risk for oil and armaments interests

By Martin Alexander

IF IRAQ'S invasion of Kuwait leaves all the big powers decidedly uncomfortable, it has compelled France to make a considerable military commitment. The French are almost wholly dependent on imports for their oil. Since the 1973 crisis, successive French presidents have courted the Arab states of the Middle East.

France has had a historic interest in Syria and Lebanon, but since the late 1970s has featured significantly in consolidating the Iraq of President Saddam Hussein.

President Mitterrand, like Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, has not been too principled in the regimes he has wooed. French involvement has owed little to old-world Gallic charm, its hallmark a crafty, single-minded pursuit of national interests.

The Iraq-Iran war, for example, was systematically exploited for the export opportunities it provided to France's state-owned arms

manufacturers. Its aggressive, government-backed arms sales have helped finance French weapons programmes desired because of suspicions about the Americanisation of Nato.

France's domestic consensus on defence rests, in part, on not looking too closely at who buys French arms. Selling equipment to Arab and Argentinians has helped balance the books, politically as well as economically.

Apart from the newly announced commitment of French naval forces, there is the large French base at Djibouti in the Horn of Africa. There, some 4,500 military personnel are maintained, together with Jaguar aircraft and naval resupply capabilities.

To support warships in the Gulf, France could deploy a battle group centred on one of her two large aircraft carriers, Foch and Clemenceau, which carry 40 aircraft apiece. If used to patrol Gulf airspace or

provide air support to multinational ground units on the Saudi-Kuwaiti border, they would reinforce the US Navy's task groups.

France also has rapid-action formations. Indeed, her capabilities are surpassed only by those of America. Strong forces that can be deployed by air exist for emergencies at a distance. The second Foreign Legion parachute regiment, stationed at Calvi, in Corsica, is on 12-hour alert. This tough, all-professional unit is combat-experienced through the hostage rescue in Zaire in 1978 and intervention in Chad during the mid-1980s.

For a bigger operation the French have the Force d'Action Rapide, their own version of America's Rapid Deployment Force. With 47,000 men in five divisions the force includes the 11th Airborne Division at Toulouse and a marine infantry division at Brest, together with air-mobile armour and artillery. The

force is judged by many commentators to be well suited to "fire-fighting" interventions on Nato's southern flank, in the Middle East or Africa. Its manpower is predominantly professional, and it is regarded as the jewel in the crown of the modern French army. It could deploy to Djibouti or Saudi Arabia at 72 hours' notice.

In the Gulf conflict France has resources to reinforce the cordon around Iraq unmatched by any other European power. But it also has a more tangled web of political and commercial relations with the Middle East states than anyone else. Oil and arms represent potent interests. If France is to become more active, the authorities in Paris will need to calculate carefully how to weigh their obligations and their interests.

The author is lecturer in French and British history at Southampton University.



Wing-Commander Gerry Connolly boarding one of the Jaguar ground-attack planes bound for the Gulf at the weekend from RAF Coltishall, Norfolk

Pentagon chief commands wide respect

From Susan Elliott in Washington

AS AMERICANS pale at the prospect of a military stalemate in the Gulf between their forces and Iraq, General Colin Powell, the senior US military officer, is one of the Bush Administration's centres of calm.

The general, as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, answers to President Bush for the performance of the US forces and is also a vital bridge between the administration and the public during the present conflict.

Fortunately for Mr Bush, one of General Powell's strengths, as he demonstrated after the US invasion of Panama last December, is his handling of public relations. Unlike many of his predecessors the general believes the military should have a firm media strategy. He won the confi-

dence of US newsmen by addressing reporters by their first names at a press conference only hours after the secret operation in Panama to overthrow General Manuel Noriega.

In Washington General Powell has a reputation for being unflappable and unpretentious. He combines a solid military career with first-hand experience of the White House, including being former President Reagan's last national security adviser. During this period his easy manner helped restore morale in an agency demoralised by the Iran-Contra scandal.

His public image, helped by a forceful television presence, is that of the American dream come true: Colin Luther Powell, the son of Jamaican immigrants, grew up in one of the poorest parts of New York and became the first black appointed to the post he now holds. He is widely

tipped in Washington as a likely candidate to become America's first black president, although he is reluctant to talk about his political views and has never openly declared himself a Republican.

Some political experts have even suggested that the Democrats, if they lose another presidential election, might be reduced to wooing General Powell as a moderate conservative to their camp in the same way the party tried to lure General Eisenhower after the second world war.

Throughout Washington circles General Powell is one of the city's few closely-scrutinized public figures unlikely to be criticized. "I don't go out of my way to make enemies and I think government runs on the basis of consensus and compromise," he has said. Another view is that he is immune partly out of respect for the

military and partly because nobody is anxious to speak ill of the most senior black in the Bush Administration.

As a leader, General Powell, aged 53, has proved himself cautious in his use of troops for fear of laying lives on the line. "But when it's clear we're going to use them," he told a US newspaper last year, "well, let's use them."

His theory, which stems from his combat experience in Vietnam, is that Washington should send in US troops only if there are sufficient numbers to perform their task quickly and with minimum casualties.

Within the US armed services, the general is known as a deft manipulator of bureaucracy whose first love remains being a soldier. He holds the Purple Heart, having been wounded in action in Vietnam, as well as the US military's highest non-combat award.

THE OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE GULF

Saddam calls for mass Arab revolt against leaders

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq last night called for a new Arab revolt, demanding the overthrow by the masses of a number of Arab regimes in revenge for their co-operation with the West against his invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi leader's attempt to turn the ordinary Arab people against their leaders immediately raised tensions in the Gulf region to a new level and lessened the chances of any compromise being found to prevent eventual armed conflict there.

In an address, timed to coincide with the closing stages of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo, in which Iraq took an uncompromising stand, President Saddam played the religious card in an attempt to subvert conservative Arab governments.

His broadcast, delivered by a spokesman in a live broadcast on Iraqi television, followed growing signs from a number of Arab states including Jordan, Tunisia and Yemen that ordinary Arabs are flocking to sign up to fight for Iraq against the American task force.

Soon after President Saddam's broadcast, it was disclosed that Egypt had urged Arab leaders attending the delayed summit in Cairo to agree to a Saudi request to send an Arab force to the Kingdom and other Arab Gulf states to protect them against attack. A draft resolution urged a response to "a request from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab states to transfer Arab forces to support their armed forces in defence of their land and territorial integrity against any foreign aggression form".

Delegates said the draft was deliberately leaked to Egypt before a final decision in response to President Saddam's call for a holy war against foreign troops and the overthrow of some Arab leaders.

The call for the Arab peoples to turn against their governments or policies adopted by their governments was seen as confirmation that President Saddam's ambitions stretch far beyond the annexation of Kuwait. He called on fellow Arabs to sweep from power the men he referred to

scathingly as the "emirs of oil" and to take back the two holiest Islamic shrines now situated in Saudi Arabia at Mecca and Medina. He also called on Egyptians to bar western fleets from sailing through the Suez Canal.

"The American forces came and Saudi Arabia opened its doors to them under the false pretext that the Iraqi army will move towards them," he declared. "It means there are plans for aggressive intentions. The joint policy with the foreigner has become exposed. So they are not only defying the Arab and Islamic nations... but are challenging God the day they put Mecca and the Tomb of Mohammed (at Medina) under the grip of the foreigner."

He declared: "Fellow Arabs, Muslims and believers in God wherever you are, this is your day."

In diplomatic circles, the speech was seen as proof of President Saddam's isolation among the Arab leaders. "He is trying to play the Arab people against their leadership. It could prove a very dangerous game", one Western official said.

The appeal to Baghdad was believed to have been encouraged by mounting demonstrations in many parts of the Arab world in support of President Saddam's defiant stand. One was banned yesterday in Tunis whose pro-western leader, President Ben Ali, failed to attend the Cairo summit. Diplomats said that he was afraid to be out of the country expressing anti-Iraqi sentiments for fear that he might be the victim of a coup attempt.

Addressing Arabs everywhere, President Saddam called for the overthrow of the Saudi Royal family without specifically naming them. "Make it clear to your rulers, the emirs of oil, as they serve the foreigner; tell the traitors there is no place for them on Arab soil after they humiliated Arab honour and dignity," he said. In calling for a holy war against the American troops — an appeal that even before it was broadcast had gained tens of thousands of recruits in many Arab countries — the Iraqi leader urged: "Burn the soil under their feet. Burn the soil under the feet of the

aggressors and invaders who want harm for your families in Iraq."

Among many young Arabs, especially Palestinians in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, President Saddam is being hailed as a new "Saladin" and many have declared a willingness to fight on his behalf. The broadcast coincided with the final hours of the emergency Arab summit which left Iraq isolated and attacked for its invasion of Kuwait, but which Arab sources said had failed to find an 11th hour diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Arab League Foreign Ministers proposed sending Arab troops to Saudi Arabia to protect it against attack by Iraq. They also recommended that their heads of state join most of the world in imposing economic sanctions against Baghdad or invading and annexing Kuwait.

Conference sources said Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, holly contested the draft as it was being formulated and vowed the resolution would not force an Iraqi pull-back. The draft was distributed to reporters shortly after President Saddam's uncompromising broadcast. It included strong condemnation of Iraq's moves against Kuwait and demanded restoration to his throne of the deposed Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. The draft was then passed on to the Arab King's and President's to discuss in private.

At one stage, the Foreign Minister in the deposed Kuwaiti government, Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber, collapsed after a fierce argument with Iraqi officials over last week's invasion. Mystery surrounded the exact nature of the incident, but after treatment he later returned to the session.

The goal of the summit to achieve an all-Arab diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis was seen by most observers as doomed from the start because of the hard-line of the Iraqi delegation which refused to contemplate any withdrawal or return to power of Kuwait's ruling family.

Mr Aziz made clear that his government was much more concerned to condemn what he described as American aggression against Iraq.



Summit protagonists: Key figures in Cairo yesterday. Clockwise from top left, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Hussein of Jordan and Taha Yassine Ramadan, the Iraqi deputy prime minister

Refugees pouring out of Kuwait tell of looting and continued resistance

By HAZRIM TEIMOURIAN

THERE was an increase in the exodus of citizens and expatriates from Kuwait yesterday as the Iraqi police continued to round up leading personalities for possible transportation to Baghdad, according to reports by those who managed to escape.

Despite an Iraqi announcement that all its borders,

including those of Kuwait, which it officially annexed on Wednesday, had been closed, Kuwaitis and others succeeded in arriving in Saudi Arabia and Jordan at a variety of crossings. By noon yesterday at the Saudi town of

Khafji alone more than 800 cars had crossed the frontier to reach a tent city set up for

them by Saudi authorities.

At the Jordanian border post of Ruweisid, large numbers of refugees who had been stranded in Iraq arrived in cars crammed with personal belongings. They were mainly Jordanians, Lebanese and citizens of other Arab countries.

They gave mixed reports on the behaviour of the Iraqi occupation army, saying that some soldiers were looting and rampaging through Kuwait homes, while others had been apologising for the behaviour of their government.

The witnesses said that inside Kuwait better-off people were organising the distribution of food to provide for the needs of those less well-placed to feed themselves after the closing of many supermarkets and an increasing shortage of food. Many are managing to flee despite Iraqi officers helping themselves to any car they desire.

At the Saudi port of Khobar, opposite Bahrain, the destination of some of the Kuwaitis, witnesses said that the refugees were mostly women and children for whom remaining in Kuwait had become particularly dangerous because of a general breakdown in discipline among Iraqi soldiers. "Most of the soldiers patrolling Kuwait City are young, sometimes as young as 17, and they do not seem to be restrained by their officers," one refugee said. "Young women are particularly at risk, even in their own houses," said another.

lary at risk, even in their own houses," said another.

In the Philippines, it was reported that three Filipino women working in Kuwait had been raped and three men had been killed. President Aquino said a protest had been lodged with Baghdad.

Kuwaitis, who have arrived in Saudi Arabia using little-known desert routes, said armed resistance to the Iraqis was now better organised, with small bands of former conscripts using rocket-propelled grenades to attack Iraqi tanks. In one incident, 11

Iraqis were said to have died. A refugee in Dubai said three Kuwaitis died in Kuwait City on Thursday when they demonstrated against the occupation army. In the suburb of Jifan an Iraqi army ammunition dump was blown up by "resistance fighters".

The reports of continued resistance to the occupation army were confirmed by a major of the Kuwaiti army who has clandestinely visited Kuwait four times since last week's invasion. "We are getting better all the time," he said, referring to the remnants of the official armed forces of the state now in Saudi Arabia. "It is now easier for us to enter the city, and we are running the show. We have had to discard rank and hierarchy, and we no longer care about what some bureaucrats may say, but merit as soldiers is what counts now."

US STRATEGY

Desert fighting will suit Americans

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN military strategy for fighting the Iraqis if they invade Saudi Arabia is taking shape. Much emphasis has been placed on the apparent lack of balance between the heavyweight Iraqi armoured divisions and the comparatively lightly armoured units of the US 82nd Airborne Division that have arrived in Saudi Arabia. But the American tactics for this threatened desert war will be more than a match for the numerically superior Iraqis.

There are two important factors, both of which provide advantages for the Americans.

The first is the Saudi terrain. The best route for Iraqi tanks is down the coastal highway that runs from Kuwait City to Dhahran. If forced to sweep across country in a flanking move, the tanks will often find the terrain unsuitable, which will inevitably slow them down and make them vulnerable to American, Saudi and British ground attack fighters.

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, one of the founding members of the Parachute Regiment and commander-in-chief of the allied forces in northern Europe from 1979 to 1982, is familiar with the

terrain in that part of the world, which he described as "very mixed", adding: "There are some very big sand seas but there are also huge areas of wilderness consisting of dust, rocks and boulders, not impossible for tanks but not a smooth run like the packed sand and rock of the Libyan desert."

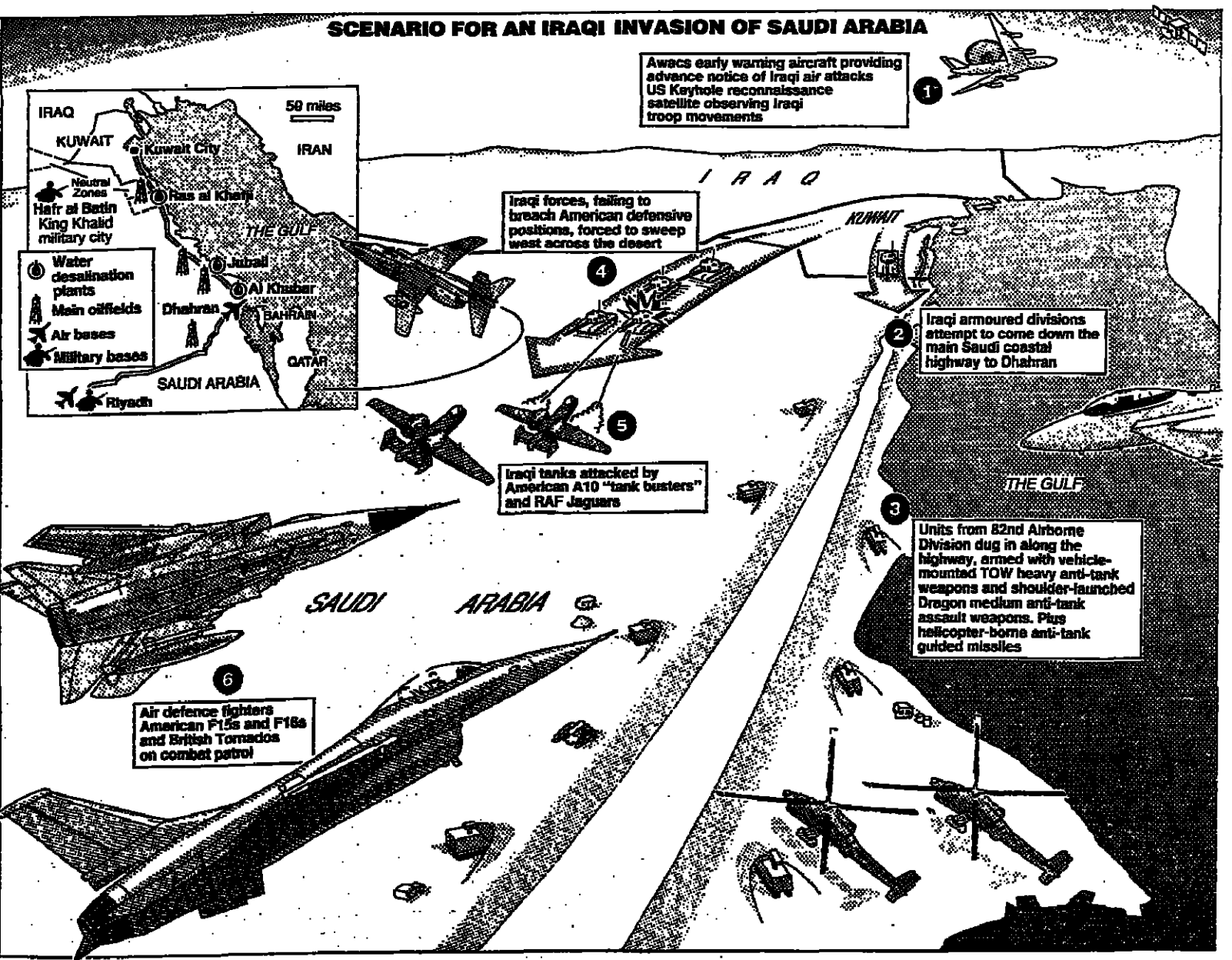
The second factor favouring the Americans is that, although the 82nd Airborne troops are not equipped with battle tanks, having only Sheridan armoured reconnaissance vehicles, they will have brought with them from Fort

Bragg, North Carolina, large stocks of anti-tank guided-missile systems, including helicopter-borne versions. The two weapons are TOW, which has a range of more than 3,000 yards, and Dragon with a range of more than 2,000 yards.

Ground and helicopter-launched anti-tank missiles will be backed by American A10 "tank busters", brought over from central Europe, and RAF Jaguar strike aircraft, both armed with precision-guided missiles. The American strategy will be to build defensive positions along the

coastal road to Dhahran which runs past the main oil fields, and other routes through Saudi Arabia, with units dug in and armed with the TOW and Dragon anti-tank missiles to prevent a rapid advance into Saudi Arabia by Iraqi tanks.

The alternative for the Iraqis would be for their tanks to sweep across the desert to the west using, in military terminology, "exterior lines", while the American forces hold the "interior lines". But the Iraqis would not be able to sustain the momentum of the advance.



Iraq leader exploits jealousy against oil-rich neighbours

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

ONE little-publicised factor that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has been exploiting in his power play in the Gulf is the widespread resentment felt for oil-rich Gulf Arabs in other parts of the Arab world, notably Egypt, their favourite summer playground.

Many Egyptians are outspoken critics of their flamboyant visitors from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the stifling Gulf region who flaunt their wealth and break Islamic restrictions on gambling, drinking and the use of male and female prostitutes.

"They come and do the things that they cannot do at home. They think that they can buy us with their money, that is why I always refer to myself as an Egyptian not an Arab," one middle-class Cairo housewife said. "We have thousands of years of civilization behind us and they have none. That shows in the way they behave."

The resentment is fomented by the haughty treatment often meted out to expatriate

Arabs, mostly Egyptians, Palestinians and Lebanese who perform menial jobs in the Gulf and often complain that they are treated like second-class citizens. Some are denied citizenship after more than 30 years of residence.

The ill-feeling, tangible at street level but usually disguised in flowery rhetoric at Arab summits and other gatherings, is being capitalised on by President Saddam in his defence of Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, where less than half the 1.9 million population are native Kuwaitis.

In an obvious reference to the ruling families in the Gulf states, where oil money has frequently led to conspicuous consumption of an extraordinary level, the Iraqi leader said that actions such as the seizure of Kuwait "were the only way to deal with these despicable Croesuses".

Based largely on jealousy, the contempt felt for Gulf Arabs by others in the Arab world is likened by Western observers to that sometimes

felt by Western city dwellers for a backward country cousin. It is reinforced by the strict fashion in which many Gulf rulers, notably the Saudi royal family, enforce Islamic law at home while flouting it abroad.

The closeness of Arab families ensures that, despite the news blackout on antics, tales of drunken and debauched behaviour receive a wide circulation by word of mouth that Iraq's leader has been quick to exploit.

Referring on Tuesday to the start of "a new lofty phase", the man described as the new Saladin said that "virtue will spread through the Arab homeland in the coming days and profanity, treachery, betrayal, meanness and subservience to the foreigner will retreat from it".

New arrivals in the Arab world are sometimes surprised that such extremes of wealth and poverty are able to coexist without unrest. President Saddam appears determined to try to turn the bad feelings they generate to Iraq's advantage.

Bacteria may cut West's need for Middle East oil

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH scientists are to carry out pioneering tests with a technique that may play a key role in ending some of the West's dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

The method, called microbiological enhanced oil recovery (MEOR), uses naturally occurring bacteria to get trapped oil from fading or abandoned wells at an economic price.

About two-thirds of the world's discovered oil is deemed to be too expensive or difficult to recover, and assuming oil at \$18 a barrel, this amount represents \$20,000,000,000,000 worth of lost energy.

In the United States alone, 340 billion barrels are inaccessible to conventional technologies and only 45 per cent of the estimated 22.7 billion barrels in the North Sea are recoverable by traditional tech-

niques. "No one imagines all of this can be recovered, but if we can get just 10 per cent more out, this would be very significant," said Vivian Moses, professor of microbiology at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, and scientific director of Archaeus, a London technology company with academic links, which is doing the bacterial development work. He said: "I am convinced we are out in front on this."

The first trials have been planned for the autumn at a location in Britain where the team will assess MEOR as a way of boosting the production of wells suffering underground blockages.

The traditional method for tackling such obstructions involves flooding a reservoir with powerful acids to dissolve the natural carbonate blocks, but the technique has to be used sparingly because the chemicals are

costly and highly corrosive to expensive pumping equipment.

A type of microbe has been identified by the Archaeus team that has none of those drawbacks, the scientists claim.

Using cheap, non-corrosive food, such as sugars or molasses, the bacteria become mini, underground, chemical factories, dissolving the carbonate blockages without damage to equipment.

The team plans more sophisticated field trials in the United States next year with different bacteria capable of more radical reservoir rejuvenation at an economic price.

Oil fields that have lost their natural pressure and have become difficult to pump are normally flooded with water to flush distant oil to pumping equipment. However, some kinds of oil are too thick for sweeping by water, which Professor

Moses likens to pushing a jelly with a pencil. "The pencil goes through, but does not push that much jelly on the way," he said.

Companies can resort to chemical treatments that make the water thicker or use detergent-like substances, surfactants, to make the water bind with the oil. What prohibits that process is the high price of the chemicals.

The British scientists have identified bacteria that, when pumped into a reservoir, produce natural gooey substances or biopolymers that make the water thicker at a fraction of the cost.

A similar technique may also help where rock surrounding oil is riddled with channels and fractures, causing water to run away rather than sweep towards a pumping well.

The British team's work highlights growing international interest in economi-

cally viable enhanced oil recovery techniques aimed at making North America and Europe less dependent on energy from politically unstable regions.

Republic International Corporation, a Salt Lake City company with more than a hundred EOR technologies, has agreed with two Russian technology institutes to develop their work in the field.

What concerns Bob Radcliffe, chairman of Republic, is what he sees as the unenthusiastic attitude of major oil companies to recovery from fading and old wells, despite the United States being a huge importer of fuel.

He said: "The technologies are becoming available, but many of the oil majors have become merchants rather than oil producers. You get the feeling they are more interested in selling doughnuts than getting oil out of the ground."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Greenhouse conspiracy in the air?

"As Britain bakes in yet another heatwave, it is easy to imagine this is further evidence of the greenhouse effect. But our impressions of what is happening to the weather are wholly unreliable," writes Hilary Lawson, in *The Sunday Times*, tomorrow, 1990 has been no warmer than average. The hottest summer on record is still 1976, points out Lawson, who argues that scientific evidence of global warming is flawed.

Is Alan Bond on borrowed time?

He won the America's Cup for Australia, paid a record price for Van Gogh's *Irises* and owned innumerable businesses — all on borrowed money. Then Bond crossed Tiny Rowland and the bubble burst. Tomorrow, *The Sunday Times Magazine* reports on Bond's fight for survival.

Volcanic Frank

"FD is irrepressibly enthusiastic and exhausting. He is like a merrily bubbling volcano."



Ideas, plans, suggestions issue from him like lava. The Edinburgh Festival opens tomorrow. *The Sunday Times* profiles its energetic director, Frank Dunlop, and provides a critical guide to the first week's events with an exclusive hotline for ticket bookings.

Spark & Marks

Muriel Spark's blackly comic new novel, *Symposium*, deals with burglary in Hampstead, riots in a convent and intrigues in the fruit section of Marks & Spencer. Read the first chapter tomorrow in *The Sunday Times*.

Dog is refused bail

A solicitor asked a court to grant bail to a dog yesterday. However, although the dog was the aggrieved party and not the accused in the case, the request was refused (Robin Young writes).

Keith Blackwell asked magistrates at Keighley, West Yorkshire, to release the three-year-old Border Lakeland terrier called Bob from what he called the custody of the RSPCA. Mr Blackwell made the application on the instructions of Christopher Rooke, of Keighley, who denies being cruel to the dog, which was savaged by a fox while hunting.

The application was opposed by the RSPCA, which has had the dog in kennels for four months. Alan Ferguson, the chairman of the bench, said that the dog would not be released until the case was heard.

Drugs pair jailed

Victor Francis, alias Ivan Thomas, aged 24, and his brother Leroy, aged 34, were each jailed for seven years by Knightsbridge Crown Court, west London, yesterday for conspiracy with others to supply crack and heroin from White City estate, west London. They were sentenced to a further three years to be served concurrently for supplying cannabis. Both men denied the charges.

Road-deaths up

Deaths in car accidents rose last year by 13 per cent to a total of 2,400, according to figures published yesterday by the Department of Transport. There was an even larger increase in the number of cyclists killed. That total rose by 30 per cent to 294, including 62 children.

Train rescue

An off-duty British Transport policeman climbed out of an InterCity train travelling at more than 100 mph yesterday to rescue a man who had been sucked out and was clinging to the open door.

Strike rejected

Some 4,000 trade unionists at GEC Ferranti in Edinburgh and Bellshill have rejected striking over 550 redundancies in the company's Scottish operation.

Texaco cuts pump prices amid signs of backtracking

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

TEXACO yesterday cut petrol prices by 2.7p a gallon as signs grew that oil companies reacted too quickly to worries about the Gulf.

A drop in crude prices on world markets is raising the political pressure for a quick round of cuts in petrol prices after a week in which the cost of four-star fuel has risen by up to 10p to record levels.

Texaco said that it was lowering prices based on its "perception of the availability of crude" and the general downward movement in crude prices. The company raised prices by 9.5p a gallon on Monday Esso had put a gallon of four-star up to 21.4p (47.2 a litre).

Britain's big three oil companies, Shell, BP and Esso, are unlikely to react yet, for Texaco's new four-star price of 21.18p (46.6p a litre) is still about the same as Shell prices even after this week's increases. However, the move raised the suspicion that oil companies may have reacted too hastily at a time when it was widely known that oil reserves were plentiful.

The Royal Automobile Club has asked the oil companies to ensure that petrol prices to ensure that profiteering is not taking place, though the Monopolies and Mergers Commission cleared the industry of such a charge six months ago.

The RAC said: "Many motorists are worried that within a couple of days of the Gulf crisis prices were sent to record levels when there is plentiful evidence that oil supplies are secure."

Sidney Balgarnie, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association, added: "We accept what Texaco say as regards the market spot prices, but we cannot be certain that some pressure has not played a part in this announcement."

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, who has accused the oil companies of profiteering, said: "Everybody should try to find a Texaco station now. This just shows how unnecessary the rises were."

"Petrol companies always

panic prices up. But they never panic them down. These companies should be quite clearly warned by the government that when this crisis is over they will watch closely what profiteering has gone on."

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said there was no danger of an imminent global oil shortage, even though the International Energy Agency in Paris yesterday backed an embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, effectively cutting the flow of oil by more than four million barrels a day.

Mr Wakeham said production was outstripping demand and oil stocks were exceptionally high.

Shell and BP defended their decision to raise prices this week despite agreeing with the energy secretary's assessment that the loss of oil from the Gulf would not damage supplies.

Sir Peter Holmes, Shell's chairman, said that despite decreases over the past 48 hours, prices at the Rotterdam market rose 17p a gallon over the past month. Shell UK was still "some way behind that" and the motorist was getting "a reasonably good deal".

David Simon, BP's deputy chairman, said oil companies could not run down stocks based on past oil prices when they had to replace them at higher prices.

The issue of petrol prices remains a key political talking point in Britain despite the fact that oil companies were cleared by the monopolies commission in February of accusations of operating a price-fixing cartel. The French Government, however, has ordered controls on petrol price rises during the Gulf crisis.

In the United States, traditionally a bastion of low-price petrol, congressional committees are discussing the increase in the price of petrol from about 65p to more than £1 a gallon. Politicians there have even said that big price rises would be an act of aggression against the American people at a time the country is mobilising for a possible war in the Middle East.



Fundamentalist British Muslims outside the Saudi embassy in London yesterday in a protest organised by the Islamic Liberation Party

British Muslims attack 'media hysteria' on Gulf No restrictions on 6,000 Iraqis in UK

By LIN JENKINS

BRITISH Muslims are launching a campaign to counter what they claim is media hysteria over the Gulf conflict and are calling for the withdrawal of the international task force.

Representatives from 50 Muslim organisations are meeting tomorrow to draw up an official response to the actions of Iraq and to make their views known.

A spokesman for the organisers said: "The hysteria of Western powers, and in particular the media, has caused great concern to Muslims living in Britain. The leaders of the community feel compelled to make a declaration on the Iraqi Kuwaiti conflict and the unwarranted provocation and conflict caused by massive foreign intervention in this mainly Arab affair."

Meanwhile, families of Britons stranded in Iraq and Kuwait say that helpines which they have set up themselves to exchange information has been the most

effective method of finding out if their relatives are safe.

Those who have received calls from overseas employers in Switzerland, Denmark and the United States have called the special telephone numbers to reassure others that their loved ones are well.

Some families have criticised the Foreign Office for not setting up a telephone information service as soon as the crisis began.

As more families of Britons and Americans working in the Gulf arrived in Britain yesterday, Expat International, a club for Britons working abroad, said that the revised official figures of less than 600 Britons in Iraq and 4,000 in Kuwait were far short of the actual number.

The Foreign Office counts those registered with the embassies and those registered by their employers. However, Tony Flowers, marketing manager of the club, said that many companies operating abroad failed to register staff. This could mean that there

were as many as 8,000 Britons trapped, he said.

A senior Conservative MP last night called on the government to recall Parliament to support the decision to send British forces to the Gulf.

Michael Latham, MP for Rutland and Melton and a former member of the 1922 Committee executive, became the first Conservative MP to speak out publicly for what would be the first emergency sitting of Parliament since the Falklands conflict.

He said: "I am surprised no attempt has been made to seek the support of the House of Commons for a deployment of British troops, particularly as it would be enthusiastically given."

So far there has been little pressure from Conservative MPs for a recall. The Labour leadership is reviewing the position daily but does not yet believe a recall is appropriate. Government and Labour sources admit, however, that attitudes would quickly change if a conflict began.

HOME Office officials estimate that some 6,000 Iraqis are living in Britain but there are no plans to take any action against the community, which includes a number of refugees from the Baghdad regime. If hostilities broke out in the Gulf, restrictions on the Iraqi community seem unlikely at present.

Iraqis coming to Britain already require visas and foreign nationals can be deported if their conduct is considered unacceptable. Since 1981 about 4,050 Iraqis have been allowed to settle in Britain and the population includes 700 refugees from the Baghdad regime. Last year more than 20,000 Iraqis were given leave to enter the country.

The majority of those visitors were businessmen, students, or here for medical treatment. Some 2,000 students live in Cardiff, Reading, the Midlands, Manchester and Sheffield. Many other Iraqis live in the London area but there are no specific concentrations.

Any surveillance of the Iraqi community would fall to MI5 and Special Branch who would be responsible for intelligence on possible public demonstrations and disorder. The small turn-out for a demonstration outside the American embassy this week suggests active support for the Iraqi regime is small or discreet.

The Iraqi intelligence machine has a long history of activity in Britain stretching back to the 1970s and the murder of General Abdul Razzaq al-Nayef, a former Iraqi prime minister, in 1978 outside a London hotel. Iraq is thought to have inspired the Iranian embassy siege in 1980 as part of the struggle with the Tehran government.

One of the men involved in the attempted murder of Shlomo Argov, the Israeli ambassador to London in 1982, is said to have strong Iraqi links. Some years later a bomb is believed to have exploded inside the Iraqi embassy in London killing or wounding staff. Police were never allowed inside to investigate the incident.

Concern at law school funding

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SIX of the 12 law schools outside the universities are overcrowded and some lack the funds to run an effective department, according to a report by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

In a survey of undergraduate legal education published yesterday the inspectors' doubts centred on the resources devoted to law in the 11 polytechnics and one college of higher education inspected. Some schools had experienced financial problems and could not cover running costs such as photocopying, money for staff to attend conferences or to employ part-time lecturers.

Some institutions were under-funded because they were thought to need only limited resources and this could lead to low morale.

The inspectors also found evidence of under-funding in libraries, where books and periodicals were becoming dated. Most library budgets had either been reduced or had failed to keep pace with inflation.

However, the inspectors reported that about 80 per cent of class work was satisfactory or better. Despite their disadvantages, schools were well placed to respond to changing demands from the legal profession. The curriculum was varied, responsive and up to date, the survey found.

Eight guilty in £3m DSS fraud

SIX men and a woman were yesterday found guilty of running a nationwide counterfeiting operation to swindle more than £3 million in the biggest social security fraud uncovered to date.

The plot involved forged pension allowance books used at post offices in England and Wales. Investigators said the printing plates and forgeries were the most professional that they had seen.

The jury returned unanimous verdicts on the 70th day of the trial, finding them guilty of conspiring to obtain money from the social services security by deception between June 1, 1987 and November 25, 1988.

Among those found guilty were Robert Brown, James Delamare and Alvin Vassell. Four other people may not be named as it would prejudice another trial.

Three co-accused, Karl Budden, Michael Austin and Helen Lake were found not guilty at Southwark Crown Court. Another man, Jay Agnew, pleaded guilty during the trial.

Judge Valerie Pearlman thanked the jury and exempted them from jury service for 20 years. She ordered costs to be paid for Miss Lake and Mr Budden.

The group secured £92,000 by cashing forged orders in summer 1988, but the plot was foiled when fake books, worth £3.6 million were found in a north London flat in November 1988. A special squad of investigators was formed and

Hosepipe ban hits 18m users

By ROBIN YOUNG

A FURTHER two million people will be banned from using hosepipes and sprinklers from midnight tonight, bringing the total to nearly 18 million. Thames Water yesterday announced that it was extending existing bans to all its seven million customers.

The new restrictions within the Thames Water region cover parts of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. The move follows the announcement yesterday of a hosepipe ban for five million Thames Water customers in Greater London and two million people in East Anglia. Similar restrictions have been placed on 4½ million people in Yorkshire and Humberside as from midnight last night.

Bans are also in force in parts of Essex, Kent, the south coast, Cornwall, Devon, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Powys, Wiltshire, the Cotswolds and Surrey. In some areas only sprinklers have been banned. In Kent, however, the restrictions extend to car washes, fountains and the washing of buildings.

North West Water has asked its seven million customers not to use hosepipes but has not yet imposed a ban on them, and Severn-Trent Water is urging people to exercise restraint in the use of water. Philip Turton, of the Water Services Association, yesterday emphasised that the measures were precautionary.

Spacecraft on Venus orbit

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AFTER a 15-month journey from Earth, America's Magellan spacecraft yesterday went into orbit around Venus, to draw the first detailed maps of the planet's surface.

Venus, the planet closest in size to Earth and the nearest to us, has already been the target of 30 space probes, 24 Soviet and six American. Ten failed and the other 20, though successful, gave only tantalising glimpses through dense, corrosive clouds.

Magellan will use radar to penetrate the thick atmosphere, 90 times heavier than Earth's, to provide a relief map of the surface. It will remain in an elliptical orbit around Venus, going no closer than 155 miles, and mapping a strip 15 miles in width on each three-hour orbit. These long,

thin strips, or "noodles", of data will be recorded during part of each orbit and played back to Earth during the remainder. They will then be assembled into mosaics. By the end of one Venusian day, which is equal to 243 Earth days, 90 per cent of the planet's surface will have been mapped.

The radar will be sensitive enough to discriminate surface details 300ft in diameter, or about the size of a football field. At the same time, an altimeter will measure the height of terrain features to within 160ft and a radiometer will detect heat radiation, which may give clues about the chemical composition of the surface.

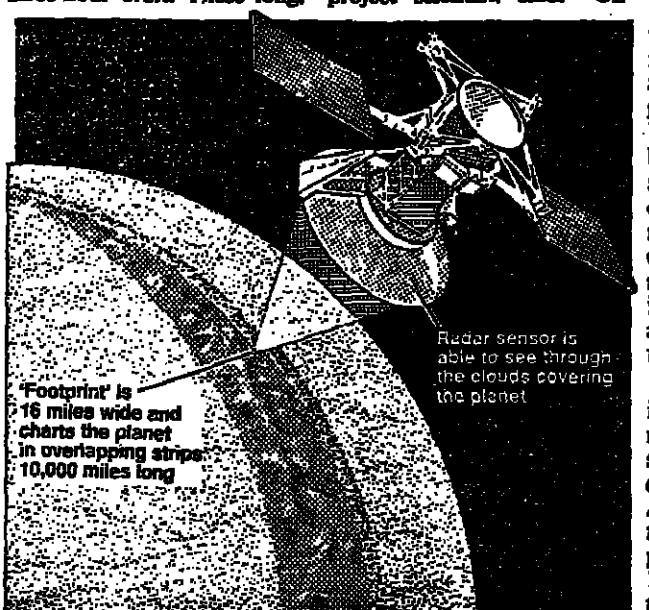
Stephen Saunders, chief project scientist, said: "On

any given day, Magellan will return more imaging data than was produced by all previous missions. It's going to give us a map of Venus that in many ways is better than anything we have for the whole Earth."

Two-thirds of Earth is ocean whose floors are not yet mapped in detail. One of the first targets for study will be a broad plateau in the planet's northern hemisphere, identified from earlier radar surveys and named Ishtar Terra. It is as big as Australia and one of two areas analogous to continents on Venus. The other, Aphrodite Terra, which is near the equator, will be studied later in the mission. Ishtar Terra is surrounded by mountains, including one a mile higher than Everest.

The mission may determine whether Venus reached its furnace-like temperatures of around 480°C as a result of global warming. Earth and Venus began in a similar way, but their histories diverged sharply, leaving Venus as a dry, scorching hot planet surrounded by an atmosphere of carbon dioxide, sulphur, and sulphuric acid. It is not known if the many craters on Venus are the result of volcanoes or the impact of meteorites.

The craft, named after Ferdinand Magellan, who circumnavigated the Earth in the sixteenth century, was launched from the space shuttle Atlantis in May last year. It is the first American planetary probe to be launched since 1978 and the first launched by the shuttle.



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New publicity campaign puts Aids back on political agenda



Bottomley: approved £3m advertising campaign

The government is planning a return to high-profile publicity campaigns on Aids in the light of new evidence about its spread.

The health department and the government-funded Health Education Authority confirmed yesterday that a television and cinema campaign will be launched in October or November. The campaign might include the use of personal testimonies by men and women who have been infected with HIV.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, has approved the campaign. Her decision co-incides with a warning by Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, that many more Aids cases are occurring than are being reported to the health department.

The campaign, which will cost almost £3 million, is being seen as a gamble for several reasons. There is little evidence that the £32 million spent on Aids publicity since the last "iceberg" and "bomb-burst" campaigns of 1987 have had any lasting effect on attitudes or behaviour, and there are doubts whether present public scepticism can be overcome. In the

last 12 months Aids has slipped down the political agenda, and the Health Education Authority has abolished its Aids division and lost some of its key personnel.

Some expert forecasts of the numbers of people likely to be infected with HIV or to develop Aids in the next few years have been shown to be exaggerated, and have been drastically reduced. However, a recent increase in heterosexual transmission of HIV, studies suggesting that some homosexual men are returning to risky behaviour, and evidence that the incubation period of the virus might be at least 12 years, have helped persuade the government that new attempts to raise public awareness are necessary.

The campaign will avoid the sort of alarming images used three years ago. Ministers and health education experts admit that such images have lost credibility, and that few people now consider themselves at significant risk of HIV infection. Susan Perl, who resigned in June as director of the authority's Aids division, said: "We made people understand more about Aids, but I am not sure we succeeded in modifying their behav-

Thomson Prentice reports on a new high-profile government Aids campaign that might include personal testimonies but which is being seen as a gamble.

our. For the best possible reasons, the government cried wolf too soon. It is now difficult to know the best way forward. Aids is going to be a long-term problem and we have to keep reminding people of its existence without boring them and without alarming them."

Mukesh Kapila, head of the authority's Aids programme, said: "We have moved away from the hysteria of a few years ago. The problem now is how to bridge the credibility gap and prevent further spread of the virus."

Dr Kapila confirmed that the campaign would go ahead, but would not discuss it in detail. However, it is likely to emphasise that HIV is being transmitted heterosexually among young adults. He said that the apparent slowing down overall of the epidemic in the last two years was due at least in part to the authority's

earlier campaigns. "We cannot simply give up now. Aids isn't going to destroy us, but it isn't going to go away, either."

Miss Perl said: "I would much rather we were accused of spending a huge amount of money on something that never happened than be accused of not spending it while time was still on our side." She said she hoped that young adults would regard the prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections with the same attitude that they had towards avoiding unwanted pregnancies.

According to the latest health department statistics, the number of people developing Aids through heterosexual contact is increasing rapidly, with almost 1,000 already infected by HIV in this way. Within the next few years, more than half the Aids cases in Britain could involve people infected heterosexually or through illicit drug injecting, the department said.

Of the 14,090 people known to be HIV-positive, 993 acquired the infection heterosexually, a 55 per cent increase on the figure 12 months ago. These figures are regarded as underestimates by the depart-

ment. That view has been reinforced by Sir Donald Acheson. He has written to public health directors and health authority managers, telling them of "disquieting" findings about the true scale of the epidemic. A health department survey has shown that in parts of England and Wales, the number of Aids patients is considerably greater than that reported.

Patrick Dixon, director of Aids Care, Education and Training, a charity which helps sufferers, said: "The official figures for the whole of the UK show 1,564 people alive with Aids. Our experience shows that about 7,000 are likely to be unwell and needing care if early illnesses caused by HIV are included in the reports."

The health department, meanwhile, announced that the anti-Aids drug zidovudine, also known as AZT, can now be given to patients before they develop symptoms of the disease. The department has given the manufacturers, Wellcome, a product licence extension allowing the drug to be used not just for the treatment of Aids. Studies in the United States have shown that it delays progression of Aids if given at an early stage of HIV infection.

Life sentence for sex offender who abducted girl of 6

By KERRY GILL

A VAN driver was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh for the abduction and sexual assault of a girl aged six near a Scottish village. Lord Ross, the Lord Justice Clerk, told Robert Black, the defendant, that it had been an horrific and appalling case.

Lord Ross said: "My main consideration must be the protection of the public, and particularly children." He said that he had taken into account a psychiatric report that described Black, aged 43, as a serious danger to children and likely to remain so for an indefinite period.

The court was told that Black, of Stamford Hill, north-east London, had paedophile tendencies with an interest in child pornography. The court heard that he had travelled to The Netherlands and Denmark to satisfy his interest in child pornography.

Lord Ross told Black: "This is a very serious case, a horrific, appalling case, and there are hardly words adequate to describe the disgust with which one listens to the detail of this offence. You subjected this innocent little girl to a terrifying experience. You not only abducted her, you abused her sexually, you endangered her life."

He added: "You have committed indecent offences in the past. I accept that was

many years ago, but the reports placed before me make it absolutely plain you are a serious risk to small girls."

Black pleaded guilty to abducting the girl in a Borders village in July and assaulting her, causing injury and endangering her life. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Lord Advocate, said Black had abducted the child as she walked home from a friend's house.

He pushed her into his van and terrified the girl into silence after she screamed. Black then drove to a lay-by near the village and assaulted her. Her hands were bound and sticking plaster was put over her mouth.

She was trussed up and pushed head first into a sleeping bag. Black then drove back into the village, but the police had been alerted. A villager working in his garden had seen the abduction and taken the van's number.

Police were about to set off in pursuit when the villager saw the van returning. Lord Fraser said that the child was sufficed with heat and she had a look of "absolute terror" when she was rescued.

Black told police that he had liked young girls since he was a child and had tied her up "because I wanted to keep her until I delivered a parcel".

He added: "I only touched her a little. I wanted to keep her until I went somewhere

like Blackpool where I could spend some time with her."

Lord Fraser said the crime had been executed with "chilling and cold calculation and cunning" and without regard for the girl.

He said that it was too early to say what lasting psychiatric damage may have been caused to the child. Black, a single man, had been fostered as a child and spent some time in a children's home.

Lord Fraser said: "He clearly had an unhappy childhood and may have been subject to certain pressures himself, but nothing to justify this dreadful offence against this little girl." A psychiatric report said that Black had strong paedophile tendencies and the only way of protecting children from him was to detain him.

Herbert Kerrigan, for the defence, said Black had no intention of killing the child or causing her any harm other than sexual abuse. The court was told the girl could have died within an hour because of the way in which she was tied up.

Mr Kerrigan said that his client had an interest in child pornography and satisfied this interest through visits to The Netherlands and Denmark. He said that Black had resisted temptation in the past. Black accepted that he was dangerous and wanted help, Mr Kerrigan said.

Allegations over police funds as two resign

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE two top officials in one of the Police Federation's largest branches have resigned after a senior detective was called in to investigate allegations about branch accounts. Yesterday West Midlands police confirmed that an enquiry is under way into funds held for members of the force's branches.

The officers who resigned were Sergeant David Mytton, chairman of the branch board, and Police Constable Arthur Quinn, the secretary. They gave up their posts after their executive met in emergency session this week following the start of the police enquiry launched by Mr Mytton.

Details of the investigation have not been disclosed. A statement yesterday issued by Paul Leopold, deputy chief constable of the West Midlands, said Mr Mytton had asked Ron Hatfield, the chief constable, on July 27 for help in "examining the administration of a number of funds under the control of Police Federation officers" at the branch headquarters in Sheldon, Birmingham.

Det Supt Graham Homer, second in command of operational CID in the force, is carrying out the investigation with the Police Federation accountant. In a brief statement yesterday Inspector Larry Johnstone, who has taken over as chairman from Mr Mytton, said: "We have sent a message to all officers in the force explaining the situation and reassuring them."

The Police Federation, representing more than 100,000 officers from constable to chief inspector, has branches covering every force in England and Wales. Each branch is autonomous with its own officials and funds. Money is allocated to national organization and branches elect members of central committees.

Funds are audited annually and the auditor's report is checked by national officials and the local chief constable.

Footpath muddles end on Monday

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

DECADES of legal confusion that have enabled farmers to obstruct thousands of miles of public footpaths and bridleways will come to an end on Monday to the benefit of millions of ramblers in England and Wales, it was claimed yesterday.

The Rights of Way Act, the most extensive amendment to footpath law in more than 40 years, will for the first time empower local authorities to take summary action against farmers who fail to maintain designated tracks that cross their fields.

"In the past, the law governing the ploughing of rights of way across farmland has been a source of much confusion and irritation," Lady Trumpington, a junior agriculture minister, said. "The new legislation strikes a good balance for all concerned."

Farmers who plough up a path when preparing a seed bed will have to make good the damage within 14 days. Any subsequent disturbance of the path by harrowing or harvesting of crops must be repaired within 24 hours. A footpath must be kept free of crops to a minimum width of one metre (3.3ft) and a bridleway to a minimum width of two metres.

A booklet explaining the

new law is to be circulated by the agriculture ministry to 160,000 farmers. The booklet says that paths must be "distinguished on the ground from the rest of the field so that walkers or riders can see what line to take".

Local highway authorities, who are responsible for implementing the act, will be empowered to give farmers 24 hours' notice to clear obstructed pathways. If there is no response, the authorities can restore the path themselves and then charge the costs to the farmer and impose a fine of up to £400.

The deputy director of the 78,000-member Ramblers' Association, John Trevelyan, described the act as a great improvement. "Paths which are ploughed up or have crops growing on them are the single biggest obstacle walkers face in the countryside," he said.

"Previously, farmers were able to argue that crops did not count as obstructions." The president of the National Farmers' Union, Sir Simon Gourlay, welcomed the new legislation. "We believe it will help to ensure the harmony which should exist at all times between farmers and responsible visitors to the countryside," he said.

Farming Diary, page 15



Face to face: King Juan Carlos of Spain inspecting officers yesterday at the Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst. Details, Page 12

Death enquiry told of steroid risk

THE dangers of taking anabolic steroids, said to be particularly rife amongst weight trainers and body builders in Britain, were yesterday described by a consultant cardiologist at an enquiry into the death of Tom Hawk, a body builder and power lifter, at an international strongman competition last year (Kerry Gill writes).

Dr Robin Northcote, who has studied the effect of anabolic steroids on the heart, said they could cause blood clotting, impair sexual performance, leading to infertility and impotence, and endanger the liver.

Other side effects caused by an androgenic steroid, a sex hormone, included acne and a deepening of the voice. He

said that there was no sound evidence that the use of steroids improved performance. While they might have a marginal effect on strength, they probably had no effect on speed or stamina.

The enquiry in Stirling was into the death of Mr Hawk, aged 21, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, who collapsed and died of a heart attack at the Pure Strength competition at Stirling Castle in June last year. Dr Northcote, of Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, said that Mr Hawk's attack, after extreme exercise, was probably related to the taking of anabolic steroids.

Mr Hawk's heart had been "grossly enlarged and grossly thickened", and weighed 680 grams, about twice the weight

expected in a man of 21. Dr Northcote said: his heart would have thickened due to power exercising, but would have thickened even more as a result of anabolic steroids.

The enquiry was told that Mr Hawk had been taking anabolic steroids and sex hormones for some time.

Dr Northcote said the case showed a need for more research into the effects of anabolic steroids on the heart. "I do believe this highlights the dangers of drug abuse and particularly anabolic steroid abuse in the sporting fraternity," he said.

Although there are few figures available for the United Kingdom on steroid abuse, Dr Northcote said it has been suggested that about a million

people in the United States illicitly take anabolic steroids. "It is not as high as that here in proportion, but it is certainly a fairly high prevalence amongst sportsmen, particularly those involved in weight training and body building," Dr Northcote said.

People could walk into sports clubs and buy a vast array of anabolic steroids, amphetamines and sex hormones, he said. All were freely, if illicitly, available.

Dr Northcote said they were imported from Europe, Asia and the United States and often contained dangerous impurities.

The findings of the enquiry into Mr Hawk's death will be published in writing on Tuesday.

World of chocolate comes to £6m life

By SIMON TAIT

THE magical world of the chocolate factory, the stuff of childhood dreams and of Roald Dahl's most famous book, is celebrated in a new £6 million exhibition.

Britain's best known manufacturer opens Cadbury World on Tuesday at its Bournville plant in Birmingham, to satisfy thousands of customer enquiries, but also as a marketing exercise.

Cadbury has a third of the market for chocolate in this country, shared with Nestlé, Rowntree and Mars. "But we have 70 per cent of the public perception — when they think chocolate they think Cadbury," Stephen Ward, Cadbury's business development director, said. "It's a magic potion. The extraordinary fact is that, to use a double negative, no one does not like chocolate."

At one time 160,000 people a year joined the free tours around the plant, but the tours stopped 20 years ago. New technology has meant that there is no longer anything more to see than half a dozen people pushing buttons.

Now, if Roald Dahl's Charlie wanted to see the magic world of chocolate manufacture he would have to pay £2.75 for children, £3.75 for adults.

He would find the latest museum exhibition techniques telling the stories of the cocoa bean and the Cadbury family. In a "mini-factory" he would see chocolates being made in the traditional manner, although opening in the hottest August this century has meant problems for the demonstrators.

The Aztecs believed chocolate had magical qualities, and mixed cocoa with wild honey and chilli. The Spanish court believed it was an aphrodisiac and kept it a secret for 100 years. Marie Thérèse kept it second in her heart only to her husband, Louis XIV of France. Samuel Pepys carried his banger with it after Charles II's coronation.

The original Mr Cadbury introduced cocoa to the Birmingham working classes in the 1820s, hoping to wean them off beer. His sons developed the confectionery (invented in solid form in Switzerland) and founded a factory and village for their workers by the river Bourn, four miles out of their native Birmingham. The opening of the exhibition will not be by a celebrity, but by 12 children from local schools. There have already been party bookings for 70,000.

Tests show growth of drugs use by body builders

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE death of Tom Hawk, after the spate of positive drug tests in national and international events and an increasing number of prosecutions for trading in anabolic steroids, demonstrates how widespread the use of drugs has become in sport.

Hawk trained at the Thames Valley College gymnasium run by Steve Piment, the 1983 Commonwealth Games weightlifting champion, who was jailed last November for supplying drugs. There is, though, no suggestion that he bought from Piment.

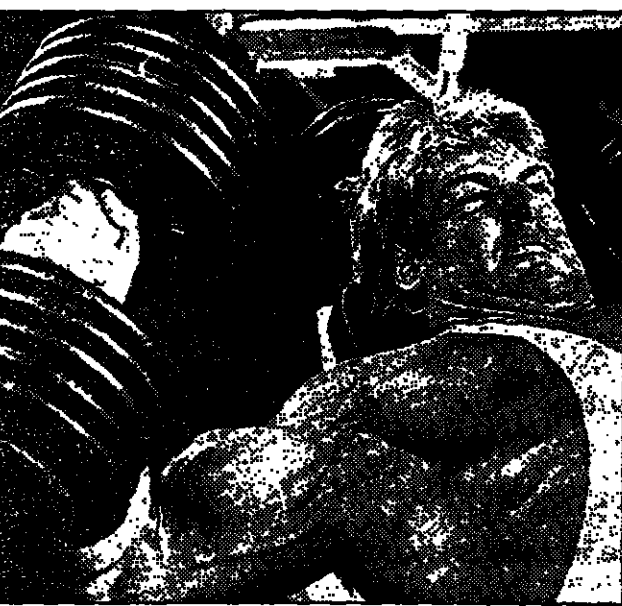
There has been a rash of positive tests in the last year in weightlifting, and also power lifting, a branch of the sport which relies on sheer strength and in which Hawk set British under-23 records. Seven power lifters were found to

have taken banned substances in 1989. In Olympic weightlifting, Dean Willey, a teammate of Piment and twice Commonwealth Games champion, was left out of the England team for this year's games after testosterone, the male sex hormone, was found in his urine.

At the games, held in Auckland, two Welsh lifters gave positive reactions to tests. The Sports Council is now conducting an enquiry into drug taking at the request of the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association.

Tricia Hatch, Hawk's girlfriend, and Dean Brewis, a journalist specialising in body building, have said that Hawk took hormone drugs, which help to add muscle weight and accelerate recovery after intensive exercise.

Hawk, a former Berkshire



Hawk: devoted life to setting records as power lifter

schools javelin champion, began weight training at school. For the last two years he exercised every day, eating every hour, while writing for magazines and coaching.

He impressed David Webster, an official at the World's Strongest Man competition, who said: "He was clearly a man with enormous potential. I was impressed with his size and density as well as his charismatic appearance. He had long blond hair, and was clearly good box office."

Mr Webster, an anti-drugs campaigner, was told by Hawk that he did not take banned substances, so Mr Webster urged him to take part in many strength competitions in Scotland. Hawk put on four stones, going up to 22 stones in the year before he died.

He exchanged training experiences with Piment, who was teaching in Slough, Berkshire. It was revealed in court last November that Piment bought drugs worth £2,600 from a dealer in France, and sold or exchanged them with body builders.

Aylesbury crown court heard that Piment's downfall began when police raided the home of Richard Crawley, a

former member of the British junior Olympic squad, who in November 1983 tested positive for testosterone.

Crawley, who lived in Walthamstow, northeast London, had been banned from the sport but did not end his involvement with drugs. When he was searched by police, who were investigating another matter, the names, addresses, dosages and dates of more than 40 clients were discovered in a notebook. Piment was among the names.

In October 1988, Crawley was jailed at Snaresbrook Crown Court for two years on charges that included selling forged vehicle exercise certificates. He also asked for 43 counts of selling anabolic steroids to be taken into consideration.

Investigators found further evidence of Piment's dealings when Robert White, a gym owner from Dagenham, Essex, was interviewed by police on November 22, 1987. White was convicted at Barking Magistrates' Court in April, 1988, of possessing two offensive weapons and a quantity of cannabis. At the time of his arrest, White had a large amount of hormone drugs.

Rich prize caps week of Welshness

THE Welsh National Eisteddfod in the Rhymney Valley draws to a tenuous close today after an unparalleled week of Welshness in an area where the mother tongue is rarely heard.

Although attendances have not reached the record achieved last year at Llanrwst, in the Welsh heartlands, the organisers were delighted by the commitment of the 130,000 visitors who made their way to the desolate former coalfield site at the head of the valley. Despite the long, dusty trek from the car park, there were few complaints about the physical conditions at a festival that produced some of the finest Welsh poetry heard for years.

Children inspired the poems that won the Bardic crown and chair for two young poets who looked forward to a new world and a new life, unlike more

recent winners who have invariably dwelt on death and destruction.

The disappointment was the withholding of the drama and prose medals when competitors failed to reach the required standards. Yesterday, however, the Welsh Arts Council stepped in with a festival. Much to the consternation of eisteddfod officials, the drama medal has been withheld four times in the last seven years, but Emyr Jenkins, director of the eisteddfod, said that if the problem were a financial one, it should be resolved by the prize, which would be added to a £1,500 performance commissioning fee and a £400 eisteddfod prize.

It is hoped that the large incentive will persuade professional playwrights to enter work for next year's Mold eisteddfod, at which the winning play will be

performed by the North Wales Theatr Gwynedd Company. The only condition of the arts council prize is that the play is worthy of the award and will prove a challenge for the Gwynedd actors.

In a new competition for the Richard Burton Memorial Prize, Daniel Evans, aged 17, a schoolboy from the Rhondda Valley, astounded the late actor's family with his performance from Hamlet.

Burton's fourth wife, Sally, who gave the award — a £250 prize for dramatic speaking — said that Daniel, whose ambition is to become a classical actor, had great style and presence. "He drew the audience to him from the minute he walked on stage," she said.

Burton's sisters, Cassie Jenkins and Hilda Owen, said that they saw in Daniel what they had seen in the young Burton, a regular competitor at eisteddfodau.

MPs rebuke committee head over consultancy

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL Mates, the Commons defence committee chairman, was yesterday rebuked by the Commons committee on members' interests for failing to declare his consultancy with a military equipment supplier.

The committee on members' interests is to consider tightening the rules on conflicts of interest after an investigation into six complaints made by the Labour MP, Dale Campbell-Savours, that Mr Mates failed to register and declare business links with the defence industry.

In a report yesterday the committee, chaired by Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, cleared Mr Mates, Conservative MP for East Hampshire, of five complaints but found against him in one case. Mr Mates was rebuked by the committee for failing to declare an interest as a consultant with Link Miles Ltd, a supplier of flight simulators, during the defence committee's enquiry into low-flying training sorties by jet fighters.

A rule change is likely to be recommended by the committee on members' interests to bar select committee chairmen and members from questioning witnesses and taking part in enquiries where they could be influenced by their business or trade union interests.

Members of the Tory-dominated defence committee are expected to discuss in the autumn whether the committee's findings justify dismissing Mr Mates as chairman unless he resigns from Link Miles Ltd. Mr Mates was abroad yesterday and unavailable for comment.

The committee on members' interests did not recommend that the Commons take any action against Mr Mates but asked MPs to take "serious note" of the report.

"Mr Mates was in our view in error not to have declared an interest when he asked questions relating to simulators during the enquiry into low flying," the report said.

"We fully accept that Mr Mates had nothing to gain personally from the questions which he asked. What is also clear is that there was no attempt at concealment of the interest in Link Miles and Mr Mates' interest was properly registered."

"Mr Mates had also mentioned his consultancy with Link Miles informally to the

defence committee and he found it difficult to believe that its members were unaware of it."

After publication of the report yesterday Mr Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Worthington, said: "The man (Mr Mates) should either resign from his chairmanship or he should sever his commercial connections with the defence industry."

Complaints rejected by the committee concerned Mr Mates' consultancy with SGL (Defence) Ltd, from which he resigned in May. Mr Mates told the committee at a closed hearing that it had never occurred to him to declare his interest in SGL to his committee because "I would not have been able to say who the clients were, what the interest was, or what was relevant."

The committee concluded: "We believe it would have been wiser had Mr Mates declared the interest in general terms, since the interest was relevant to the work of his committee."

"The practice of the House has been to allow considerable discretion and judgment to individual members in determining when and to what extent to declare a specific and relevant pecuniary interest. However, we believe that Mr Mates' interpretation of what was required was too narrow."

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury and a member of the committee on members' interests, said Mr Mates' continued chairmanship was a matter for the defence committee. Failing to declare an interest or handing over the questioning was a lapse of judgment, he said.

House of Commons select committee on members' interests 2nd report (Stationery Office, £9.45).



Mates was "in error" not to declare his interest

Villagers battle for their church

By JOHN YOUNG

THE villagers of East Stoke, near Wareham in Dorset, will stage a demonstration today in an eleven-hour attempt to prevent their church being sold to a developer for conversion into three private homes.

St Mary's church is an early 19th-century building, listed grade 2, but the interior and the roof tiles have been stripped. Five years ago it was declared redundant, and an application made for its "appropriation" to residential use. The application was opposed by the local parish council but approved by the planning authority, Purbeck district council.

At the time the church was closed the average congregation was barely more than a dozen strong in a village with a population of about 450. Last year, planning permission was granted to Gavin Bibra, a developer, and John Bond, who lives on the adjoining property. Mr Bond's family originally gave the land to build the church. The news galvanised Malcolm Barnes, a local farmer, and Peter Sills, a freelance photographer. They called a public meeting, attended by nearly 150 people, all but three of whom, members of the Bond family,



St Mary's church at East Stoke, due to be sold to a developer for conversion into private homes if villagers lose their last-ditch fight

objected to the scheme. Within six weeks the formerly reluctant Christians had pledged £35,000 to restore the building as a village hall,

chapel and community centre. A committee was set up to commission a survey, engage a firm of architects and approach the Bishop of Salisbury

for support. They were confident of victory when in May this year the bishop, the Right Rev John Baker, wrote to say that he had recommended to

the Church Commissioners that the community centre plan went ahead. But this month a letter from the commissioners said that it had

been decided that the residential use proposal should proceed as the only way of safeguarding the long-term future of the listed building.



Suicide of boy barred from home

A BOY aged 16 killed himself after his father turned his home into a fortress to keep him out, a Bournemouth inquest was told yesterday. Lawrence Oates's father bolted the windows and doors and even wired in a security system. He put his son's clothes in the garden shed.

The teenager was let into his home in King's Park road, Bournemouth, Hampshire, by his mother and sister. When more bolts were put on, however, he gave up, the inquest was told.

His body was found at the bottom of a 100ft high multi-storey car park near the town's pleasure gardens. Nigel Newille-Jones, the East Dorset coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Michael Oates, Lawrence's father, said that his son, whom he described as a talented graffiti artist, had got involved with drugs, started to steal and had not gone to school. He had taken the advice of the school's attendance officer and had finally locked Lawrence out of the house. After the inquest, however, he said: "It was pathetic advice."

Mr Oates's wife Sally, aged 40, said: "The house was like Colditz." She said her husband had gone too far.

The peril of holidays abroad

By ROBIN YOUNG

ABOUT 300,000 people will have their overseas holidays ruined this year, according to a survey done for the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta).

Keith Betton, public affairs manager of Abta, gave the figure yesterday on the basis of the survey, which showed that although 83 per cent of people were satisfied with their holidays last year and 91 per cent thought them good value for money, 3 per cent said that their holidays had been spoilt.

There were 14,200 complaints to Abta last year. Of those, 1,457 arose from flight delays, 1,544 from administrative upsets and 1,211 from unsatisfactory lodgings. Arbitration was held in 756 cases. In 529 awards totalling £170,000 were made to customers. The highest award was £2,000, the lowest £20 and the average £240. Abta took action against tour operators 138 times for breaching its code of conduct.

Mr Betton said that complaints should be made on the spot to the tour operator's representative or the hotel manager. "Nine-tenths of holiday problems can be sorted out this way," he said.

Miss Saigon rethink

ACTORS in New York have moved to save the Broadway production of *Miss Saigon*, cancelled on Wednesday by its producer Cameron Mackintosh because the American Equity union refuses to allow Jonathan Pryce to appear as an Eurasian (Simon Tait writes).

The union is to reconsider its decision after a petition signed by more than 150 Equity members was received demanding a re-evaluation of the issue. Alan Eisenberg, American Equity's executive secretary, said the union's council would discuss the matter soon.

held if at least 100 Equity members petition for one. Mr Mackintosh said yesterday: "If there was a complete about-face by Equity under the pressure of their own membership which changed the atmosphere I would be happy to discuss the situation with anybody."

Cancellation of the show, which was to have opened in March, would mean 50 actors, including 34 with Asian origins, losing their jobs.

Equity's council had said that casting "a Caucasian actor made up to appear Asian is an affront to the Asian community". Mr Mackintosh had then cancelled the show.

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Pakistan puts travel ban on bank chiefs

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

THE heads of a string of state-owned banks have been banned from leaving Pakistan as the interim government intensifies an anti-corruption drive against political and business associates of Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister.

The army has closed the offices of the Intelligence Bureau, the Federal Investigating Agency and the prime minister's secretariat while military intelligence officials search for documents that might incriminate senior members of the deposed administration.

The caretaker government installed five days ago insists it is not conducting a witch-hunt. Nevertheless, there is a campaign to discredit Miss Bhutto in an attempt to prevent her returning to office. She retains a strong measure of support among rural peasants and would stand a good chance of being re-elected in a free and fair poll.

The acting military-backed government is headed entirely by people from the era of the Zia military dictatorship and disaffected elements from Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

For all its supposed neutrality as a caretaker body, it is composed of the former prime minister's strongest opponents. Some are well known for financial and political impropriety. "It is nonsense to suppose that the people running the interim government are any cleaner than Benazir Bhutto's team," a senior political observer said.

The drive is being called the

"process of accountability" and in due course judicial tribunals will be established to determine who is unfit to stand in the general election promised for October 24.

It is far from certain that the tribunals will be impartial, although Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister, insisted there would be no political victimisation. He even offered to submit himself to the process of accountability. Despite his assurance there is a clear possibility the exercise will turn into a campaign to disrupt the PPP's election bid by declaring many of its candidates unfit.

At this stage, the process looks decidedly partisan. The heads of the state-owned banks were appointed by Miss Bhutto; many senior government officials appointed by her are being dismissed; and the government has issued a directive that Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, is not to be issued a passport until investigations against him are completed. A witch-hunt against Miss Bhutto could backfire, as it did when the military tried the same tactic against her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The PPP rallied around him, just as it might rally behind Miss Bhutto if the accountability process turns blatantly into an exercise to destroy her.

There are bound to be efforts to split her party, and already there is a steady trickle of defections to the acting government, particularly in the interim administration now running her home province of Sindh.

A military takeover cannot be ruled out if Miss Bhutto appears to be making an electoral comeback. She has not tested the strength of public sympathy since she was ousted on Monday, preferring to remain in her Karachi home while she takes stock.

She said that she feared a demonstration of "street power" would provoke widespread violence.

A leading Pakistani magazine, *Newsline*, claims in an article to be published today that it possesses documentary evidence of massive corruption by Miss Bhutto's husband. The article, prepared before Miss Bhutto was overthrown, will be a powerful propaganda weapon for the interim government.

O Kashmir talks: India and Pakistan said yesterday they made progress yesterday in talks to reduce tension over an anti-India insurgency in Kashmir, the Press Trust of India said from Delhi.

Frontier guerrilla warfare. *Saturday Review*, page 12

Hindus riot over jobs for the poor

Delhi - Hindus protesting against job quotas for the poor went on the rampage this week in the eastern Indian state of Bihar, burning buses, halting trains and attacking government buildings and vehicles in the state. Two days after it was announced that 27 per cent of all government jobs would be reserved for the poor.

Officials said yesterday that the protesters looted money from a government vehicle in Patna, capital of Bihar state, attacked a local university complex, and burned a minister's car. At least 10 people were reported injured in the rioting. Similar violence was reported from other Bihar cities. (APF)

Girl saved

Nicosia - A two-year-old leukaemia victim given blood "despite her Jehovah's Witness parents' objections was expected to leave a Cypriot hospital today. She had completed the intensive phase of treatment and the leukaemia appeared to have gone into remission, said a doctor at the Nicosia Evangelistria Medical Centre. (Reuters)

Border claim

Nairobi - Sudanese rebels said yesterday they had captured a garrison town near the Zairean border. The clandestine radio station of the Sudan People's Liberation Army said that Rathwulou garrison fell after a three-day battle.

Honecker charge

Bonn - Erich Honecker, the disgraced former East German leader, is to be charged with issuing the orders to shoot and kill people trying to cross the inner German border. The prosecutor's office in East Berlin said that every case would be investigated in which a would-be escaper had been killed or wounded.

Engaged in theft

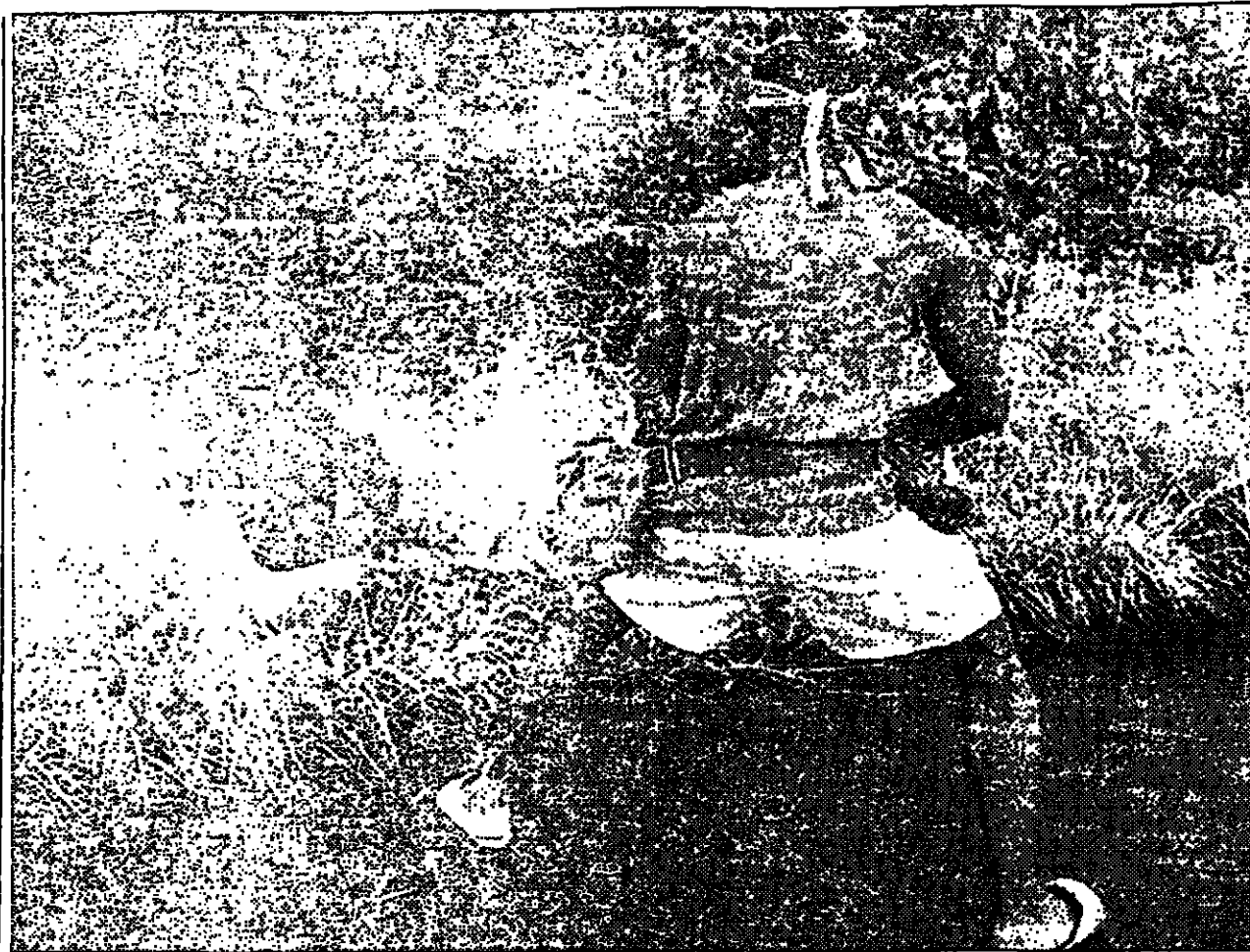
Hanoi - Vietnamese copper thieves have stolen hundreds of miles of copper wire in the past few months, completely knocking out telephone services in two northern provinces, despite the threat of execution. (APF)

Bank killing

Potenza - Italian police marksmen killed a construction company chief, Rocco Maiorella, aged 53, after he drew a gun and shot a bank manager and a clerk in a row over his account. (Reuters)

Muslim charges

Port of Spain - More than 100 members of Jamaat al-Muslimeen, the black Muslim group that took the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago and 45 other officials hostage last month, have been charged with crimes ranging from treason to weapons possession. (Reuters)



Roadside terror: a guerrilla of Charles Taylor's rebel force threatening a student before shooting him dead

Hoboes gather for day of fame

From SAM KILEY IN LOS ANGELES

CONFRONTED with sophisticated electronic surveillance devices to keep people out of railway shunting yards, the unrelenting fervour of the Internal Revenue Service plus violent drug-related crime, American hoboes are an endangered species.

Yet their place in American mythology as the quintessence of the free spirit shows no sign of slipping as 20,000 sedentary Americans have temporarily uprooted themselves and descended on Britt, Iowa, to witness today's election of the King and Queen of the Hoboes. There are few towns in the world where tramps are welcome, let alone invited to pitch their make-shift tents in the local shunting yards, light fires, drink, and generally ballyrag about the streets. However, Britt, which has a population of 2,500, is proud

of its association with America's gentlemen and women of the road. The town's chamber of commerce has been sponsoring the event since 1900.

The titles come with no stipend, no duties and no official regalia, and true to the free-wheeling philosophy of hobo elections are by acclamation, not merely from bona fide hoboes but anyone who happens to be in the crowd and sufficiently impressed by campaign speeches or poems to vote.

Less than 50 true hoboes have attended the convention and fewer than 3,000 people are thought to be living that sort of life. Yet there is no shortage of people without a roof over their heads in the United States. The homeless population is growing by about 25 per cent a year, according to a survey conducted by the mayors of America's 26 largest cities, and already numbers three to four million people.

"Steam Train" Maury Graham, who was elected King of the Hoboes in 1973, 1975, 1976, 1978 and 1981 and is now Life King of the Hoboes East of the Mississippi, distinguished between the homeless and hoboes: "The homeless are dependent people who need help. Hoboes had homes and left them for life on the road, to get close to nature and live off the land."

The number of people choosing the romantic side of vagrancy is dwindling as America's bureaucracy catches up with non-taxpayers and the railways are less tolerant of tramps riding freight trains.

"Most hoboes now live on the West Coast where they get an easier time riding the freight trains because they are needed for fruit picking. I know of only two riding the trains this side of the Rocky Mountains."

"The biggest problem is drugs. People don't trust us anymore and often we can't trust them," said Steam Train, author of *The History of Hoboes, Tramps and Vagabonds*, who, aged 72, has retired from wandering and settled in Toledo, Ohio.

The future of rail-road riding may lie in a pastime started in California by a group of "yuppie-hoboes" who dress up as tramps and hitch-hike up and down the coast, but are back in time for work on Monday. "It's no game for amateurs. They'll have great adventures but I wish they would stick to backpacks," said Steam Train.

Lithuania tells Moscow to end military draft

From AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN MOSCOW

LITHUANIA yesterday told Moscow to stop the forcible drafting of Lithuanians into the Soviet armed forces and return all Lithuanian conscripts to the republic.

A declaration adopted both by the Lithuanian parliament and government, which had declared unilateral independence from the Soviet Union on March 11, insisted that its citizens were not compelled to do military service in the

armies of other states, a Tass report said. "Their refusal to do military service in the Soviet armed forces conforms to the law."

The declaration, addressed to President Gorbachev and Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, called on them to prevent the Soviet army from forcibly inducting recruits. "Such actions by the Soviet armed forces in Lithuania contradict the laws of the

Lithuanian republic and constitute gross interference in the domestic affairs of the republic," it said.

The declaration was issued as a Lithuanian delegation arrived in Moscow for talks with the Soviet government on the republic's declaration of independence which is not recognised by Moscow. In late June, in the face of a Soviet economic blockade, the Lithuanian parliament agreed to a 100-day moratorium on its independence declaration in exchange for talks with Moscow about secession. The moratorium is due to come into effect from the beginning of the official talks.

The Lithuanian delegation was headed by Bronislav Juozas Kuzmyckas, the deputy head of parliament, and Romualdas Ozolas, the deputy premier.

Meanwhile, the parliament of the autonomous republic of Karelia adopted a declaration of sovereignty, which proclaimed the primacy of its laws over those of the Russian Federation and the Soviet Union, Tass said. The proclamation marked the first declaration of sovereignty by an autonomous Soviet republic, observers said.

● Bomb blast: At least 15 people were killed and 16 injured yesterday when a bomb blast ripped through a bus in Azerbaijan, the local Azeri news agency said. The bus was travelling from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi towards Agdam, on the border of the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh which is claimed by neighbouring Armenia. (Reuters)

Threat to European jet fighter

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WEST German opponents of the European Fighter Aircraft project are trying to get it stopped after a confidential report prepared for the Bundestag's budget committee revealed that the defence ministry has been too optimistic in assessing its development costs.

The £6.5 billion project, in which Britain and West Germany each have a third share, is still in the development stage, with the first prototypes not due to fly for two or three years. The aircraft's specifications are meant to make it capable of taking on Soviet-built MiG 29s.

According to Rudi Walther, a Social Democrat who is the budget committee chairman and a strong opponent of the project, the report, prepared by the National Audit Office, shows that the West German development costs will far exceed the DM6.4 billion (£2.15 billion), agreed by the government on the basis of estimates prepared by the defence ministry.

The report has yet to be published but Herr Walther said it showed that another DM3 billion to DM4 billion would be needed to complete the project. The ministry has denied the claim, insisting that it will still be possible to stay within its budget.

The Social Democratic party has suggested taking over East Germany's MiG 29s and spending the new aircraft's budget on developing an environmentally friendly aircraft engine.

Tardy peace force key to Doe's fate

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN ABIDJAN

BEHIND the walls of President Doe's last redoubt, the Liberian leader is staring defeat in the face. Barely a square mile of battle-scarred streets in Monrovia remains under the control of his few hundred loyal troops, and a new advance by the rebel forces of Charles Taylor towards the centre of the capital threatens to bring the presidential mansion into easy range in the next few days.

With guerrillas of Prince Johnson, the rival rebel commander, closing in from the opposite direction, President Doe's only hope is to hold out for the arrival of the proposed West African peace-keeping force to impose a ceasefire.

However, despite reports of contingents from Ghana, Nigeria and Guinea assembling in neighbouring Sierra Leone, the prospects of that happening before the Executive Mansion is overwhelmed seem highly unlikely.

According to an official spokesman in Accra, Ghana will provide 1,000 soldiers to the peace-keeping force, which is to be commanded by a Ghanaian general, Arnold Quainoo. Nigeria would be contributing 700 troops plus naval forces, while Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Gambia are expected to send smaller army contingents.

There has been no confirmation of reports that an advance element of troops may be airlifted into Monrovia to establish a "corridor" for refugees to leave and the advance of ground forces.

Diplomatic observers in the region consider that assembling and provisioning the 2,500 troops earmarked for this operation could take at least another week.

Mr Taylor has clearly decided that this delay will give him enough time to launch a final assault which, if it does not crush Mr Doe's resistance, will win the rebels control of more strategic ground.

To demonstrate his fierce hostility towards the governments of Nigeria and Guinea, both of which have been staunch supporters of the Doe regime, Mr Taylor has already sacked the Nigerian embassy and forced the Guinean ambassador to flee from his residence.

If Mr Taylor's several thousand fighters can seize enough territory before the peace-keeping force arrives, he would be in a powerful position to influence the terms of any final political settlement. The murderous activities of his undisciplined guerrillas so far, especially where members

of Mr Doe's tribe, the Krahn, are concerned, leaves no room for doubt about his ruthless determination to emerge as the most dominant figure in Liberia.

As for Mr Johnson, whose own taste for blood recently led him to shoot dead a hand-cuffed civilian in front of Western journalists, the looming threat of a direct clash with the opposing rebel forces appears to have convinced him of the value of going along with efforts to stop the fighting. His men will, he says, maintain "purely defensive positions" unless Mr Taylor attacks them.

Meanwhile, trapped in their shrinking corner of Monrovia, Mr Doe and his Krahn soldiers understand all too well that no mercy will be shown in the event of their surrender: in this pitiless tribal conflict, prisoners do not live long on any side.

How much ammunition and food is available to the defenders of the Executive Mansion is unknown, but the weeks that have passed since Monrovia was first attacked would have allowed the construction of solid defences.

Without accurate artillery, neither rebel faction can hope to batter the President's stronghold to pieces from a safe distance.

If the peace-keeping force does arrive before Mr Doe's resistance has ended, it will still face formidable problems beyond holding the ring on the battlefield. A swift and massive relief effort will have to be organised if famine and epidemics are to be avoided.

Where the money for that will come from is far from clear: diplomats say that the \$50 million (£27 million) required simply to finance the peace-keeping force is proving a considerable problem.

The Bush administration's preoccupation with events in the Middle East clearly complicates matters. The US has indicated approval of the West African initiative, but clearly has devoted little thought to Liberia.

The battalion of US marines now holding a perimeter around the American embassy in the Mamba Point diplomatic district could provide invaluable logistical back-up plus military muscle to preserve a truce.

About 30 Liberian refugees who had been sheltering from the fighting left the Swiss embassy in Monrovia and joined advancing rebel troops, a spokesman for the Swiss foreign ministry said in Bern yesterday.

Part-time army for white towns

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PART-TIME military units are to be established in white South African suburbs and towns as residents grow increasingly jittery about security. The first two units are to be formed next month in Randburg and Sandton, two affluent towns on Johannesburg's northern border.

As well as commando and Citizen Force members, neighbours could also be recruited into the units and armed if they met certain criteria, General Klopper said. All members would be required to have a gun safe or other means of keeping weapons secure.

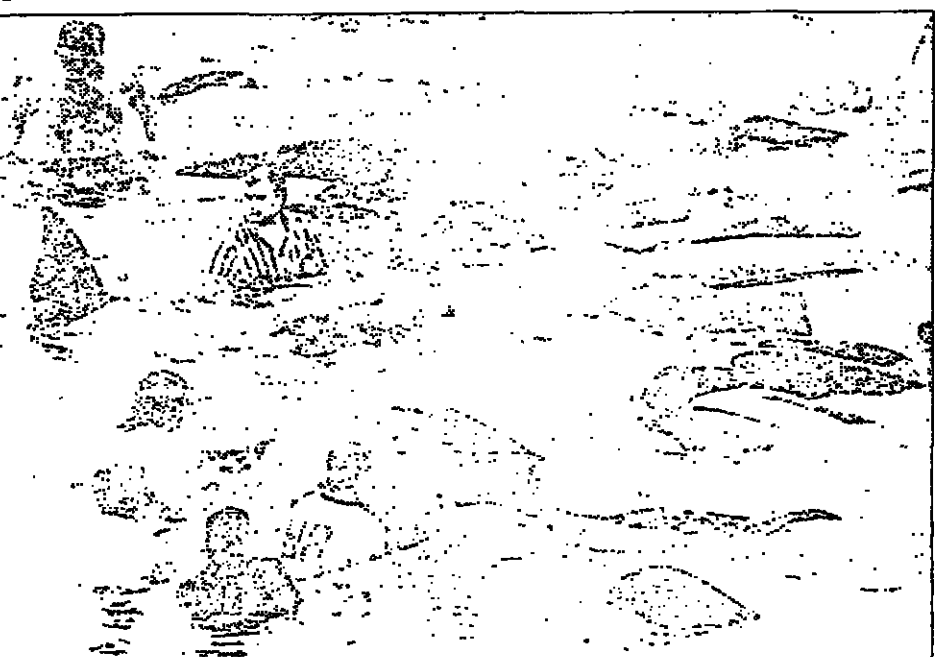
Colonel Hans Stempele, a defence force spokesman, yesterday described the units as a reversion of existing commando structures. "There is nothing new in the exercise," he said. "It has nothing to do with the security situation."

Nevertheless the groups will contribute significantly to a rapidly developing security syndrome in white suburbs where homes often are reinforced with security doors and electronic alarm systems and are surrounded by walls topped with razor wire.

Meanwhile, clearly embarrassed, the African National Congress was yesterday trying to explain away a statement by Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Nelson Mandela, its deputy president.

State-controlled television broadcast her telling a women's rally in Durban: "I want it to be clear that Umkonto we Sizwe (the ANC's military wing) has not been disbanded. The suspension of the military action on the part of the ANC is a strategy. It does not mean the cessation of violence."

This appears to be at odds with the decision to halt the "armed struggle" announced by her husband on Monday. Mr Archie Gumede, president of the United Democratic Front, the ANC's main affiliate, said: "She did not even use the word violence. Some people think that Umkonto we Sizwe has surrendered but this is not true and this is what Mrs Mandela was telling her audience."



Saving the whales: Canadians struggling to push about 40 bleeding pilot whales, stranded in three feet of water, back out to sea at Grand Etang, Nova Scotia. The police said that two whales had died from fatigue at nearby Cheticamp after struggling 500 yards through rocky waters before rolling onto the beach. The Canadian fisheries department organised the 100-strong human chain to push the whales back out to sea. Scientists at the scene could not explain why the whales were trying to beach themselves. One said they may have been struck by a parasite or been following a sick whale. "We're wondering if they'll head for open water," police said. (Reuters)

Scandinavians calling time on teetotal restraints

From TONY SAMSTAG IN OSLO

NORDIC nations may be on the verge of a socio-political revolution no less profound, in its own dour, provincial context, than that which has rocked its communist neighbours to the east. As in the Soviet Union and former satellites, the revolution is fuelled in large part by generations of institutionalised consumer frustration. The difference is one uniquely Nordic irritant: alcohol.

With the endearing exception of Denmark, for more than a century it has been difficult and expensive to get a drink in Scandinavia.

In the Norwegian capital, for example, which is typical of the region, outdoor cafes now charge about £4 for a pint of beer. In the relatively few fully licensed premises, a double whisky is well over £3, always to be drunk indoors, only after 3pm, and never on Sundays.

while the cheapest three-quarter-litre bottle at the government-monopoly off-licence (which closes at 4pm or 5pm weekdays and for the weekend at 1pm on Saturdays) is about £2.5. A bottle of very ordinary plonk is unlikely to leave change from £5, and restaurants charge double or treble the price.

But now the dour Nordic consumer is getting fed up, not only with the restrictions on alcohol but also with their economic and social effects on towns and cities, where the growth of pubs and restaurants has been stifled by the tyranny of the teetotal majority.

In recent years the boom in foreign travel has enabled many to appreciate the pleasures of a less authoritarian life. It is here the price of an evening out is not forced up by government decree.

The signs are tentative but stirring. Iceland, for example, last year celebrated the end of an 80-year ban

on beer, an anomalous hangover from a quarter-century of prohibition that ended in the 1930s. The availability of beer accounted for a rise in alcohol consumption of 25 per cent, but the foundations of the republic stood firm.

A recent lunatic-fringe proposal in Sweden to issue alcohol rationing cards for the sake of "public health" provoked so much uproar that it brought alcohol policy as a whole into question. In Finland, increasing concern over binge drinking and public drunkenness, predictable responses to the "forbidden fruit" approach to alcohol, have inspired unprecedented public discussion on whether the Nordic approach might actually be counter-productive, even in its own terms.

Norway's contribution to the new debate is by far the most straightforward. Last month, Willy Haugli, Oslo's controversial police chief, announced that he was fed up with

wasting valuable police time chasing moonshiners and alcohol smugglers. "If the Vinmonopol (the government alcohol monopoly) were to halve its prices, illegal alcohol production would scarcely be a problem," he said, adding rather disingenuously that the whole thing was "a political question and nothing for me to get mixed up in".

From as early as 1772, which also signifies the end of an era in Swedish history known as "the age of freedom", an abhorrence of alcohol has been official government policy in Scandinavia. A constitution that year established a Crown monopoly on distilling, initially as a measure to increase food supplies by preventing the diversion of grain to the more profitable production of strong drink.

By the 1830s the temperance movement was in full cry throughout northern Europe. With the state Lutheran church in attendance, the

result (despite the failure of prohibition, as elsewhere) has been a society in which alcohol is seen as the root of all evil.

Dr Thomas Kingston Derry, the distinguished Anglo-Norwegian historian, sums up the contradictions nicely. On the one hand, he writes, temperance "had a special importance in northern Europe, where the cold winter and generally monotonous diet maximised the appeal of cheap potato brandy". On the other hand, "the prohibition experiments of the 1920s have given place to a public opinion which often regards alcoholic excesses as a natural foible in a cold climate".

The visitor to larger Scandinavian towns is made painfully aware of laws which tolerate open drunkenness in public places and even reward the habitual drunkard with a full invalidity pension. Meanwhile, the first UN conference on alcohol is held this month - in Oslo.

"SERVICE EXCELLENCE- OUR COMPANY'S COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS."

*Extracts from British Gas'
Chairman Robert Evans'
Address to the Annual General Meeting
on 9 August 1990.*

My first year as Chairman of British Gas proved to be challenging and satisfying to me personally. Challenging because we had to grasp the nettle of change. Satisfying because it has been a year of considerable achievement for British Gas. If I had to pick out just one aspect which has been particularly important to me it would be the emphasis we have given to providing an excellent quality of service to our customers.

COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS

There has never been any danger that the service standards of British Gas would suffer as a result of privatisation - quite the contrary.

Obviously our intention is to operate profitably. And there is no doubt in the modern business world that close attention to improved standards and quality of service make a positive contribution to profitability.

Also, we are a long-term business. Customer loyalty and quality of service are essential elements of our growth strategy. We are making a major change in our approach to service throughout the gas business. During the year we conducted a survey among all our 17 million domestic customers to find out how we performed against their criteria and expectations. I know of no other company which has undertaken such a survey on such a scale.

We received 1.25 million replies. They showed us that, on the whole, the great majority of customers are well satisfied with the service they receive from us. But there were some areas of our work where we did less well than we did in others.

Following the survey we published a set of standards under the title "Commitment to our Customers." And that is exactly what it is. A commitment from us to deliver service excellence in all our dealings with customers. They can see clearly what they should be able to expect from us and employees can see exactly what is expected of them. Our employees are personally committed to providing a high quality service to customers and I want to pay tribute to their individual efforts and achievements. Without their support and dedication the Company would not achieve its objectives.

Plans are in hand to improve service quality still further. We are about to publish a new code of practice for the services we provide to elderly and disabled customers who need some special attention. Also, we are introducing a new standard organisation within all Regions. This involves setting up, across the country, 94 districts each of which will have its own general manager. In effect we're setting up 94 local companies able to deal effectively and swiftly with every aspect of customer service. The general manager will be able

to respond quickly to opportunities to enhance business and improve performance in a new competitive environment.

The new organisation also includes the appointment of a customer relations manager, or ombudsman, in each Region to whom customers can turn if they are not fully satisfied using the normal channels.

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

In the same way as we have a duty towards customers and to add value to the business we also have a responsibility to add value to the lives of the communities we serve. We support educational activities, and run an education service which is among the best of its kind in the country. We support the arts, like the London Festival Orchestra's Cathedral Classic Concerts; projects which help the environment like the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

We support charities like Help the Aged and Neighbourhood Energy Action which provides energy improvements for people on low income. We provide funds for sporting activities, particularly to encourage disadvantaged youngsters to join the fun.

There is a tremendous pressure on companies to provide help of this kind. Successful companies should act as good neighbours and lend support to projects which enhance the general quality of life in the community.

COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The environment is a subject in which we all have a vested interest.

Gas is the cleanest of all the fossil fuels and we shall be building on that quality to support our business growth in the years ahead. The product we supply has considerable environmental advantages over the other major fuels. As we win an increase in the market share for natural gas we will contribute not only to the well-being of the company but also to the good of the environment. On environment matters British Gas has nailed its colours to the mast. I have introduced within the Company an environmental policy to ensure that we remain at the forefront in taking a responsible approach to being environmentally friendly in the way we behave.

As a responsible member of society I am, of course, concerned about the possible effects of global warming, and, as the Chairman of British Gas, I shall ensure that the company behaves responsibly so as to have the least possible detrimental effect on all environmental matters. But, I do not believe that there should be concern about the effect on profits. Gas is the cleanest of the fossil fuels and will win markets from fuels which are less friendly to the environment. With our international Exploration & Production business and our technological leadership, British Gas is well placed to make a major international contribution to the environment. The increasing use of natural gas in preference to other fuels is helping to slow down the emission of gases which contribute to global warming.

Natural gas can provide part of the solution and coupled with our active promotion of energy conservation, gas is making a major contribution to alleviating the greenhouse problem.

COMMITMENT TO BUSINESS GROWTH

We are, of course, equally committed to business growth. In Britain our customer base is increasing year on year. More than a million new customers in the past four years - by a business almost 200 years old - is an outstanding achievement.

Our exploration and production activities around the world continue to grow. We are now exploring for gas and oil in 18 different countries - and, profits from the E&P side of the business increased by more than £107 million over the year.

We purchased a major interest in Texas Eastern North Sea and British Gas Group now has the second largest resources of oil and gas on the UK continental shelf. We have set up joint ventures with two American oil companies for gas exploration and development in the Gulf of Mexico and onshore. And we won a 20% stake in an international project to develop a major gas field in the Gulf of Thailand.

Our Global Gas unit will develop our international interests in business areas other than exploration and production. Global Gas also has the responsibility for marketing the company's Research and Technology and other expertise and services around the world. We have a great deal to offer and we are currently seeking and assessing business opportunities in the Soviet Union, East Germany and elsewhere. The Eastern Bloc opens up tremendous new opportunities for British Gas.

Through Global Gas we have made a bid for the shares of Consumers' Gas, Canada's largest gas distribution company. We have bought a stake in Catalana de Gas in Spain. We hope this will lead to other business opportunities in Spain and in other Spanish speaking countries.

We are not, however, ignoring opportunities for growth in the UK. The privatisation of electricity opens up new opportunities for us in the power generation market and we see that as an area of substantial business growth in the years ahead. We have set up Citigen, a joint venture with French interests to develop total energy combined heat and power projects in city centres. We have also signed an agreement with Lakeland Power to supply 125 million therms a year to their Roosecote power station in Cumbria and I am confident of many more future opportunities to sell gas to power stations.

British Gas is on the way to becoming the world's first global gas company. We have the product, the technology, the management and the employees to achieve that goal and become a major international company.

We will think as such. We will act as such. We will compete with others as such.

The 1990s will be the making of a new decade of achievement - in Britain and abroad - for British Gas.

British Gas

Church with no role in war

Clifford Longley

The day war broke out or shortly after, according to folk memory, people started flocking to church to pray for deliverance from perils. Yet this folk memory is a myth: the two world wars did more damage to church attendance than decades of peace — damage from which the churches never recovered.

At the end of the first world war, the churches engaged in a good deal of soul-searching over their performance. But it was not until 1978, in *The Church of England and the First World War* by Alan Wilkinson (SPCK), that a comprehensive examination of the phenomenon appeared. Wilkinson, himself ordained, concluded that Christian teaching as presented in peacetime had been utterly inadequate to cope with the horrors of war, particularly after the decimation of Kitchener's "people's army" on the Somme.

For many, perhaps in a sense for the whole nation, the first world war was a decisive step away from Christianity. At least, from its Edwardian certainties. People compared what they had seen and heard in church, at first or second hand, with what they had seen and heard on the battlefield or in the homes of widows and orphans, and they could not reconcile the two. Christianity and reality seemed to be mutually exclusive.

The horror of war was of course a deep shock to the whole culture of the nation, not just its religious dimension, and Wilkinson made a profound point about its impact on language. He referred to the "inhibition" others had noted about the use of expansive or eloquent language, which may have been a symptom of deep psychological disillusionment in the aftermath of war. As the inhibition deepened subsequently, "so it has now become very difficult to mint a convincing contemporary language to encompass love of country, religious belief or tragedy (for example) — hence our problem in finding a genuine language for the liturgy or for translation of the Bible, and the tendency to fall back on an uneasy pastiche."

It would be wrong to single out the first world war as having a uniquely devastating effect on the religious view of the world, however, for the very different experience of the second world war had a similar effect on church attendance and membership. The feeling of senselessness that gradually overtook the country after 1916 hardly surfaced during the second world war, yet that conflict also saw a flight from religion. In both wars, church attendance was down from the outset, and not merely the result of war-weariness.

After each war there was some recovery by the churches, but not nearly enough to make good the losses. And it is not irrelevant that service in the armed forces brought millions of men into contact with church chaplains and

religious worship for the first time in their adult lives. Not for want of a captive audience did the church fail to make its mark. Nor was it a particularly Anglican failure. According to *Churches and Churches* by Currie, Gilbert and Horsley (Oxford, 1977), which is still the only study of its kind. Nonconformist numbers were proportionately down.

Yet this backing away from religious practice in war may have been a profound tribute to Christianity, and to the moral integrity of the British. Though in both wars church leaders were emphatic in their support for the war effort, people knew in their heart of hearts that Christianity was a religion of peace. The pious patriotism of church sentiment between 1914 and 1918 did nothing to earn the public's lasting respect, though the same public might have been very angry if the churches had preached surrender.

Popular piety often exaggerated the idea of "gentle Jesus meek and mild", the almost androgynous Christ of parlour prints, but any honest reading cannot regard the New Testament as a manual of war. In wartime the churches find it extremely difficult to find anything to say that makes true Christian sense: they cannot advise turning the other cheek, letting the enemy in, which seems closest to their peacetime ethos; nor can they revise their image of Jesus by making him a machine-gun-toting Rambo. So they cannot urge less killing and they cannot urge more killing. Although it makes no philosophical sense to say so, in war people prefer to think of Christianity as suspended for the duration, something to get back to when times are easier and life is less nasty. They are not taken in by churchmen who tell them nothing has changed. God loves them. In war, God is on trial, judgment suspended.

Those who take part in war, suffer war guilt. Killing the enemy they can accept as uncomfortably necessary, but to kill the enemy and then go to church for Christian worship is to make the discomfort that bit more acute. Some conflicts of conscience hurt too much. The nearest equivalent is a woman who has had an abortion. She may be utterly convinced it was necessary. She may be equally convinced it was wrong. Logic cannot help her; she does not ask that the contradictions be reconciled.

With rumours of war prowling the world once more, the churches would do well to acknowledge this psychopathology, and not rush in too fast with facile offers to heal it or facile prayers for peace. War is a human evil, when all the principles of morality are stood on their heads, when the purposes of honourable men are to take life rather than save it, to hurt rather than to heal. If it is not possible to say anything useful to them, it is wiser to say nothing.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

I remember the conventional wisdom about George Bush from covering the American primaries for *Weekend World*. He was short of "leadership qualities". A wimp. How could such a man declare war? He was said to lack that presence and rhetoric with which Mr Reagan commanded the nation's destiny.

Watching him on television this week, I felt the opposite. Not that such criticisms are baseless — he has turned out much as we thought — but that they are not criticisms: that if a politician is to take me to the edge of war, I prefer it to be done without flourish, relish, or rhetoric of any kind. If I can be sure that this action is alien to his nature, I am far readier to be persuaded that it is right.

The president was not stirring, but then I don't wish to be stirred, thanks. I can stir myself, if necessary; but first I must believe it is necessary. A quiet explanation in which I sense that the politician takes no personal pleasure is what is needed. That is what Mr Bush provided. His being no natural warrior is profoundly reassuring.

We are told that when the Lord asked Moses to lead his people out of Egypt, Moses was not keen.

"Who am I," he protested, "to do this?" God told him that that was for Him to decide. The Israelites must be rallied.

"They will not believe me," said Moses. The Lord, however, would not take no for an answer.

"But I am not eloquent," said Moses. God insisted. And, in the end, Moses had to agree. It has always struck me as very much a point in Moses' favour that he accepted his calling without any kind of relish. Were it otherwise — were we to learn that from his earliest days among the bullrushes the little Moses had entertained schemes for giving Pharaoh a bloody nose and leading his people from captivity, that by adolescence he was already notorious for seeing visions and hearing voices, and that as a man he had now become a fine public speaker — we should greet news of the burning bush rather as one would greet a bid

by Michael Heseltine for the Tory leadership: with pleasure, of course, and with interest, but with something less than shock. Moses doesn't want it, has no talent for it, and tries to get out of it. When, despite all that, he tells the Israelites what he and they must do, then I am inclined to follow him.

That is why one is never quite sure about St Paul. If it wasn't one thing with Paul, it was another. All his life he seemed to be in a rather awkward something. Prosecuting Christians or preaching to them, he was constantly bossing them around. One feels that if he had made the journey to Damascus just one more time, there is a danger that something else would have struck him and he might have converted to Islamic fundamentalism. It is perhaps fortunate that Islam had not been thought of, since Paul was a natural Shia.

I wonder if the necessity for the second world war would have been so universally accepted if Churchill had led us into it? Neville Chamberlain was a figure unlikely to initiate hostilities, yet perhaps that made him the man to do it. No documentary about that era is complete without the newswreel of a sad and rather awkward figure, plainly provoked beyond what was tolerable, pushed finally into a declaration that was anything but blood-curdling. This image is an integral part of our perception of the justice of that response.

George VI, the reluctant king with a bad stammer, is somehow inspiring in these circumstances, in a way that Prince Charles could never be. I suppose that when a man takes no pleasure from glory, one feels that the arguments against glory have already been given all possible weight. And so if he has concluded that glory is called for nevertheless, then glory it must be — and good luck to him.

So give us generals who hate war, lovers who are not Romans, and prophets who are inclined to doubt. And if the President is a wimp and still thinks that this is no time for wimpishness, then I'll follow the wimp where no warrior could lead me.

Rosemary Hollis in Jordan says the Gulf states do not all oppose Iraq, as we like to believe

An Arab hero defying the West

Reports from the emergency Arab summit in Cairo emphasise the firm stand being taken by the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak on the need for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait if the Arab community is to protect the region from outside intervention. But many Jordanians would see an Iraqi withdrawal not as an Arab solution, but as a capitulation to external — principally American — threats. What ever the West's feelings about Saddam Hussein, he is a hero in the eyes of a significant body of opinion in those Arab countries that have long been absorbed by the Arab-Israeli conflict. The US and other countries now applying pressure on Iraq must heed this opinion if they are to meet the backlash certain to follow any use of force. As Western units are marshalled throughout the Gulf, those who stand to suffer most if fighting breaks out are the very people purportedly being rescued.

The Arab world respects Saddam Hussein's achievement in sustaining an eight-year war with Iran and emerging with his territories intact and a formidable war machine at his disposal. When he subsequently warned the Israelis that he would retaliate to devastating effect if they attempted to attack Iraq or its fellow Arabs, he won further acclaim as an Arab patriot and hero, especially among those who had previously felt intimidated by Israeli power and humiliated by Israeli successes in war. For those Arabs who saw their remittances and prospects of Arab aid declining with the price of oil, Iraq's endeavour to end quota-busting and to boost the oil price was welcome.

Furthermore, the Arabs have little sympathy for the ruling family of Kuwait. Those who have faced hardship in recent years, and the expatriate workers, technicians and professionals in the Gulf states who have been treated as second-class citizens, have been treated as the Al-Sabah family deserves to be taught a lesson.

Citizenship laws in Kuwait discriminated against non-Kuwaiti Arabs working in the sheikhdom, even though some have resided there for decades. While poorer Arab countries such as Jordan, Egypt and Sudan are crying out for aid and investments, the Kuwaiti invested tens of billions of dollars outside the region and lived lavishly on the proceeds. Apparently ignoring the protection afforded to Kuwait and the other members of the Gulf Co-operation Council by Iraq during its war with Iran, the Kuwaitis, it is alleged, were extraordinarily insensitive to the economic damage and human suffering in Iraq.

The condemnation of Iraq has been supported by Kuwait's six allies in the Gulf Co-operation Council and by Syria and Morocco (the leaders of which have long been at odds with Saddam). Egypt too has censured Iraq — and yesterday President Mubarak insisted that the Al-Sabah family be restored to power in Kuwait — but this is said to be the result of pressure from the Gulf states and the US, on which Egypt depends for economic aid.

When the Arab League Council issued its statement on August 4 condemning the Iraqi move into Kuwait, there was dissent from the poorer Arab states and those with the closest ties to Iraq: Jordan, Yemen, Mauritania, Djibouti and Sudan, as well as from the PLO. Jordan's decision not to condemn Iraq should not be seen as simply the product of fear. King Hussein took the decision not to recognise the provisional government in Kuwait partly so as to be in a position to mediate in the crisis. However, his voice has been drowned in Cairo by that of Mubarak, and the king faces the problem of how to comply with the UN resolution without jeopardising his relationship with Saddam Hussein.

The king's description of Saddam as an Arab patriot is in keeping with views expressed across the political spectrum in Jordan and among Palestinians. If it takes a man of the mettle of Saddam Hussein to rein in Israeli expansion — so the thinking goes — then so be it.

Yet King Hussein's position is, if anything, more cautious than that of many Jordanians. On Thursday, a delegation of deputies of the Jordanian lower house apparently went to Syria to try to persuade President Assad, Saddam's arch-rival, to support broader Arab calls and allow Iraq trading access to the Mediterranean through Syria.

Insofar as Arab governments diverge from popular sentiment by acquiescing in the international boycott, they may well jeopardise their standing. In Jordan there is talk of a turning point having been reached in Arab history. There will be no return to the status quo ante, whatever happens to Kuwait and Saddam.

Against this background, the international effort to isolate Iraq, and the arrival of Western military forces has been depicted by many here as old-style imperialism: the rich world powers ganging up with client regimes to crush an obstacle to their selfish interests. There is anger and fear, not of Iraq per se, but of the potentially devastating consequences if there is war. Even if a conflagration is avoided, Western powers have not enhanced their image as defenders of democracy, and the hostility of radical elements to the West and its friends in the Middle East will be hardened.

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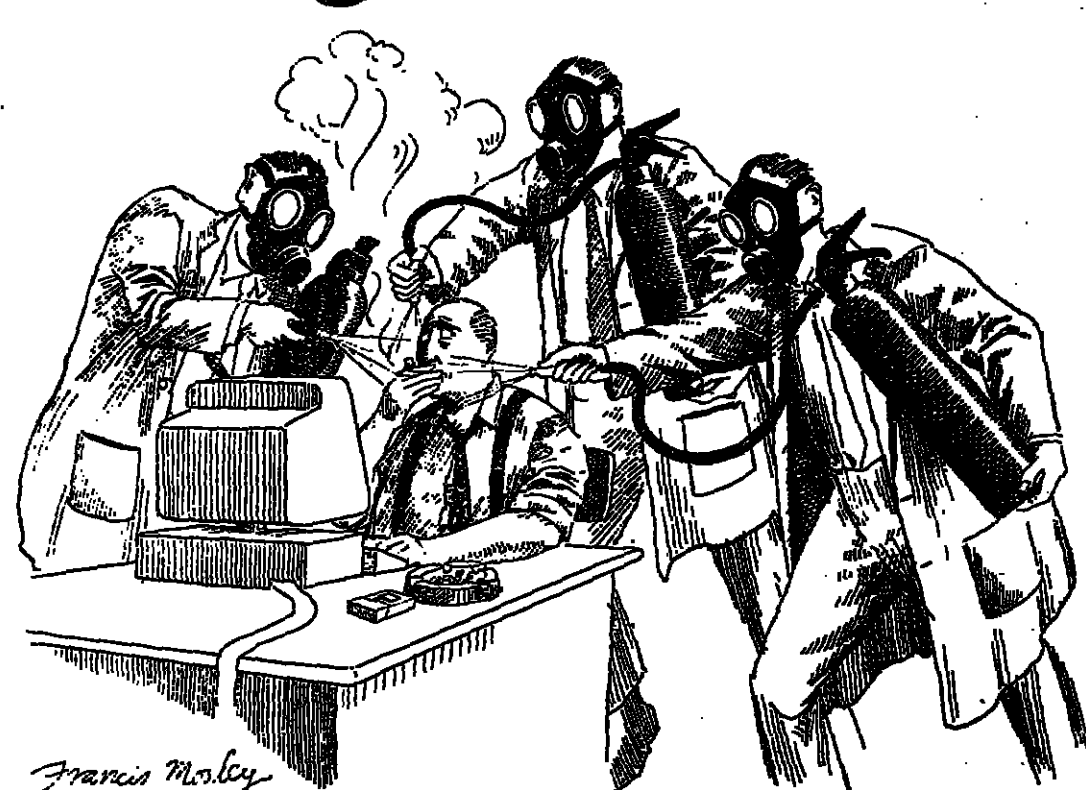
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Time for a heartfelt toast to this scourge of the wowsers

There are two quite separate reasons why I would like to shake the hand of Wing Commander Paddy Barthrop. The first is that he is one of that now dwindling band who fought in the sky to ensure that those on the ground might live in freedom. (A curious literary fashion has arisen in recent years, one of its earlier exponents being Mr Phillip Knightley, which has the effect of diminishing the achievements of the Few, of the Dunkirk evacuation and of other such notable and now historical second world war battles. Mr Clive Ponting, who, having done only one interesting thing in his life, must be getting desperate for a sequel, has recently gone further, virtually arguing that the Battle of Britain didn't really happen, and in so far as it did was a hopeless shambles on our side, successful only because the Luftwaffe was even more incompetent than the RAF.)

The other reason for my wish to admire the gallant birdman face to face was to be found recently tucked away in these pages: he was recounting, by way of interview, his philosophy of living well, and so magnificent, gorgeous and complete was his roaring contempt for that modern pestilence, the health-wowsers, and so tremendous his enjoyment of everything they forbid, that I became helpless with laughter as I read. Ideally I should reproduce the entire item, for those who missed it (s.a.e. to me for a photocopy), but I can give you a taste (and what a taste).

I eat everything, as much butter and fried foods as I can get my hands on. My favourite meal is roast lamb with onion sauce, thick with cream, and spuds with butter on. I smoke between 40 and 60 cigarettes a day... To eat carbohydrates, you've got to have sugar on them, and lots of cream, otherwise there is no point in eating them... I am purely a social drinker. I have not had a drink at lunchtime since I left the air force in 1958... but if there's a party... I drink as much whisky and water as I can get my hands on, no ice, and as much wine as they are prepared to buy me... The older you get the less beer you can take, which must be good for your liver... now, after a few large whiskies and a bottle of vino, I'm gone... I have a main meal at night. I'm very fond of haggis with mashed



Bernard Levin finds an ally in the continuing battle against mindless health-consciousness campaigns

potatoes with bags of cream and a dollop of butter... I like all food... smoked salmon, lobsters... as long as you keep smoking cigarettes, drinking plenty of whisky and tap water — not this rubbish in a bottle — you'll go on for ever.

Well, if he doesn't go on for ever, there is no justice in the universe. It is too much to hope that when the members of the Health Education Authority read this they simultaneously suffered an apoplectic seizure and expired on the spot. I suppose we would have heard about it by now. Still, we can hope that at least a few of them, the heart gone out of their wowing in the face of such heroic effrontery, will go into a decline, their last days made miserable by the realisation, too late, of what they have missed.

And if you wonder why my normal ridicule of the HEA has today become something sharper, let me share with you their latest

cleverness. They have printed, with our money, half a million pamphlets telling adults not to drink too much on holiday, or to confine their drinking to orange juice, lemonade and mineral water ("this rubbish in a bottle") — Wing Commander Barthrop. These instructions are illustrated by anecdotes of more than ordinary imbecility, recounting the fate of Uncle Clarence who drank too much and had his money and passport stolen, and his brother Charlie who came home penniless because he also had drunk too much.

Is it possible (no, it isn't) to make organisations like the HEA understand that the population of this country is not composed entirely of backward five-year-olds? It is bad enough that they should waste their indefensibly blouted public funds by telling us that two and two make four, it is much worse that they should do so in spew-making language which

represents all too clearly the quality of their own minds.

But that is not all the HEA has been getting up to lately. They have got hold of the thick end of £25 million for a campaign called (more Noddy-language) "Look After Your Heart". This will be spent on telling us the astounding news that we should eat less fatty food and take more exercise, thoughts that had never hitherto crossed our minds, and setting up "workplace prevention schemes", not to say "aerobics classes". In addition, there are 2,000 tutors who can be called on by an employer at our expense to give courses on "relaxation techniques" and "healthy eating".

Well, our intrepid aviator could tell them a thing or two about healthy eating, and I dare say he would if he could get hold of half a million quid of other people's money. He would also have something to say about smoking ("I smoke between 40 and 60

cigarettes a day... As long as you keep smoking... you'll go on for ever") which naturally is at the centre of the new campaign, and indeed has a centre of its own. For yet another quango, this time the Health and Safety Executive, is determined to stamp out smoking altogether at workplaces, and has started on the project.

Now what do all these campaigns and pestering have in common? First, those in charge always claim that what they are doing is selflessly keeping us from harm. It is true, they are seeking and getting a thrill, the thrill of the bully when his victim is in his hands, or in other words they are exercising the little bit of authority and power they have been given or have seized.

It is not our bodies they really care about, it is their souls. The tone of their hectoring is unmistakable; it is thick with smugness and self-righteousness, akin to the conviction of some religious sects that they, and they alone, will be saved, because they, and they alone, are sufficiently pure. And the analogy can be pursued further; the wowsers, sectarians, after a time, are not content to leave the sinners to posthumous justice, but must needs chastise them while they are alive. I make a terrible prophecy: within two years of this day, a bomb will have been thrown into a smoking-permitted area.

How can it be made clear, to those whose minds are shut and bolted against the idea, that adults in a free society must be allowed to do things which may, or even will, harm them? How can we draw the line between helping and bullying, and having drawn it, how can we stop the wowsers crossing it? How can we, having watched as advice has turned into condemnation, and condemnation into fanaticism, and ostracism into fanaticism, stop this progress before it becomes persecution?

Well, one way would be to make Wing Commander Barthrop prime minister. Failing that, let me do a full half-hour's interview with him in prime-time network television (I am an experienced TV interviewer), in which he would expound the philosophy that has kept him healthy and happy into his seventies. Alas, the rot has gone so far that no television company would dare screen it.

Ministers on baggage hold

Unlike President Bush, who has decreed from Washington for his annual holiday, senior British ministers have had to put their personal travel agendas on hold because of events in the Middle East.

Mrs Thatcher's assembly of a Falklands-style inner cabinet has torpedoed the holiday plans of her most senior ministers.

Douglas Hurd was forced to unpack his suitcases at the last moment. "The foreign secretary has had to delay his holiday," says an FO spokesman. "It's impossible to say when he will be able to take it."

Defence secretary Tom King was relaxing at his Wiltshire home when he was summoned to London to discuss the government's military response to the crisis. King returned home yesterday but a Ministry of Defence spokesman says: "We are in constant touch with him."

Transport secretary Cecil Parkinson, as a member of the cabinet overseas defence committee, has had to stay in London. So too has deputy prime minister Sir Geoffrey Howe. And although party chairman Kenneth Baker is not a member of the key committee he has remained at his post.

William Waldegrave have managed to escape with the sun tan oil. Neil Kinnock is keeping abreast of the crisis via Italian radio and television. He is sunning himself in Tuscany.

● The Liberal Democrats' new logo, the existence of which was first disclosed here and which is to be unveiled by Paddy Ashdown next month at their party conference, is a dove. Ashdown resisted the obvious temptation to go for a phoenix rising from the ashes of the old Alliance and chose instead a symbol of peace, tenderness, and innocence. But his Paddy done his homework thoroughly? In Christian art the dove represents the holy ghost. No prizes for guessing to which figure in the political centre it might apply.

Dramatic diet



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

THE KREMLIN AND THE GULF

One consolation of the Gulf crisis has been the Soviet Union's response. The Kremlin's initial moves to condemn the Iraqi invasion, sever arms supplies and support the United Nations on sanctions were unexpected and welcome.

Since an American armada began to assemble in the Gulf, however, Moscow has retreated from solidarity with the West against its former ally, Iraq. By Thursday, the Soviet foreign ministry was implicitly rebuking Washington for deploying forces in Saudi Arabia, while reassuring Baghdad that the earlier condemnation of Iraq had been "difficult and painful" in view of the two countries' "long-standing and friendly relations". Moscow argues that only the UN may intervene on behalf of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, and that all "unilateral decisions" are *ultra vires*. And so President Gorbachev's message yesterday to President Mubarak stressed the need for a negotiated "Arab solution".

In short, the Kremlin has drawn back from clear-cut moral disapproval of the annexation of one Arab state by another, in favour of a more ambiguous, even opportunist, position. Does this mean that the initial assessment by Western analysts — that the Soviet Union's initial disavowal of Saddam Hussein's incursion was a new departure — was mistaken? Western politicians may well ask themselves whether they have been duped by their own rhetoric. For Mr Gorbachev's disengagement from Eastern Europe, combined with his far-reaching domestic changes, has not necessarily transformed Soviet policy around the world.

There are grounds for hoping that Moscow may now be playing a more constructive role than in the past. Even if Soviet conduct in the Middle East often appears to be all things to all men, a shift is now perceptible. The alliance between the Kremlin and Arab revolutionary nationalists, which dates back at least to Khrushchev and Nasser, no longer counts for much with Mr Gorbachev. Absolute priority has been given to relations with the West.

Assuming the Soviet Union slowly integrates with the world economy, it will no longer be in favour of gratuitous upheavals in an area as market-sensitive as the Middle East. The man who lifted the Iron Curtain should

not be eager to provoke division among the Arabs. Moscow is as successful as ever in exporting expensive armaments to Arab rulers; but it is no longer interested in exporting revolution. Soviet support for an independent Palestine persists. Yet the Palestinian cause has in practice been left aside in order to cultivate the Israelis, with whom Mr Gorbachev shares more pressing bilateral issues, such as Soviet Jewish emigration. Leninism and pan-Arabism once made convenient ideological bedfellows; but Mr Gorbachev now takes his Lenin with water. President Saddam Hussein may like to think himself another Nasser, or even a Nebuchadnezzar. The Kremlin is unlikely to lift a finger to save him.

This reassessment of Soviet priorities in the Middle East must, however, have its limits. There are signs that these are being reached. What passes privately between James Baker and Eduard Shevardnadze is doubtless far more significant than the language of official Soviet statements, yet the recently detected tone of impatience with the idea of a multinational blockade of Iraq, under American leadership, is authentic. There will be no Soviet participation in any task force except on equal terms with the Americans; and it remains to be seen whether George Bush is quite ready for such equality.

Even if he were, it is not certain that Moscow would take part. When Mr Bush told Mr Gorbachev last December that a Soviet intervention in Romania would be welcome, the Russians did nothing. Not only in Eastern Europe but also in Africa and Asia, the Soviet president takes his doctrine of non-intervention seriously. For one thing, it is cheap.

He also sees no advantage in aligning himself with what is portrayed in the Middle East — and not only by Iraq — as an anti-Islamic Western crusade. The Soviet Union is also in effect a Muslim power. The Asian republics, which provide so many Soviet troops, would not thank Mr Gorbachev for embroiling them in a war against Muslim friends. The non-Muslims would not thank him for a second Afghanistan. The West must be thankful for small mercies, and should not expect more than Mr Gorbachev can deliver.

POWERGEN PROSPECTS

The privatisation of PowerGen, the smaller of the two components of the old Central Electricity Generating Board, could yet become one of the more unusual and innovative features of the entire privatisation programme. At least two alliances of trade unions and institutional investors, one from PowerGen's own employees, have entered the lists as potential owners, giving at least labour and capital think they have the capacity to combine for their mutual benefit.

The government, which has so far regarded the disposal of PowerGen as more an embarrassment to be minimised than an opportunity to be seized, should give them a run for their money. They deserve no favours, but nor should their efforts be discounted in advance. The government should not dismiss these propositions just because they are unconventional. The support of PowerGen's own employees for one offer, announced yesterday, is reminiscent of the successful employee buy-out of the former National Freight business. The involvement of mineworkers in another bid has no clear precedent, and hints at conflicts of interest which may not be commercially propitious. None the less the partnership between the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and the insurance company, Legal and General, is at least worth considering.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, has been told by his City advisers that PowerGen and National Power, the two new non-nuclear generating companies, would fetch only knock-down prices if, as he at first planned, they were sold to the public in a stock market flotation next spring. City investors balked at the spiralling risks of brand new companies operating in a completely new and little understood electricity market without any track record.

The more potential buyers know of the

industry, the higher they have begun to value the generating companies, largely because of the property assets. Lord Hanson, with a privileged role in a possible trade sale of PowerGen, is proving a useful stalking horse.

The Hanson conglomerate has prospered by making assets sweat efficiently to deliver maximum cash flow to central corporate coffers. But electricity costs will only be held down if the big generating companies are committed to investment in the growth of supply, for the sake of their future profits. Through his American interests, Hanson is one of the world's largest private suppliers of coal. That includes low sulphur coal, whose use is a commercial alternative to investing in desulphurisation plant at power stations or new sulphur-suppressing coal burning technology. But such a sale would involve a political cost, since Lord Hanson is a well-known supporter of the Conservative party.

A public auction based solely on price, on the other hand, would not be in the best interests of electricity consumers. Competition in generating will be severely restricted and the pricing power of the two main companies will be dominant and unregulated. A consortium of management, company employees and pension and insurance companies is often the best alternative to public flotation for a profitable company being privatised. One of the strongest arguments for privatisation has always been to identify employees' interests with the financial success of their company.

All serious potential bidders should be given equal opportunities to make bids. If Mr Wakeham stands back coolly from the timetable, eschews another quick fix and considers security of fuel and clean air as well as price, his tactics may yet produce the best available deal for the taxpayer and the customer, and even a refreshing alternative to the traditional privatisation pattern.

WHY GROUSE?

A good many years ago, when *The Times* had a regular weekly feature under the heading "Field Sports", a contributor to it began his article, "This has been a very poor year for partridges". Someone pointed out that what he meant was that it was a very good year for partridges, which could be seen giving thanks for having survived in surprising numbers.

Similar thoughts must be going through the minds of the grouse today: the Glorious Twelfth falls tomorrow, though because grouse-shooters are, as is well known, devout to a man, they do not shoot on Sundays. The birds will at least have an extra 24-hour respite before they are dodging the shot.

Yet the air of apprehension is not entirely confined to them. Their enemies also have much to think about. First, as any grouse-kill will tell you, the sport is becoming expensive. More troublesome still, the animal libbers will be on watch, beating the covers well in advance of the guns to tip off the birds and give them a chance to make themselves scarce before a trigger can be pulled.

Then there are those expensive restaurants which advertise grouse on the menu on the very first day of the season, presumably on the principle that there's a sucker born every minute. A pound to a tail-feather that the deep freeze has been waiting a year to separate the sucker from his golden Barclaycard.

Nor is that all. One glimpse of the Duke of Edinburgh amid the heather and all hell will break loose: "... should be setting an example ... World Wildlife Fund ... grouse doing him no harm ... can't possibly eat that many ...", and from the other side of the argument, "... should be allowed to enjoy himself ... culling essential for proper breeding ... good enough shot to ensure they don't

suffer ... understand he sends them to hospitals and such ..."

Then there are those who take no part in the argument over moral ecology, but tend to be at least as quarrelsome in their disputations about the length of time the grouse should be hung, what the stuffing should consist of, whether it should be cooked rare or very rare, and even whether the result should be accompanied by claret or burgundy.

Anyway, why grouse? Pheasants presumably dislike being shot just as much as grouse do, and that goes for guinea-fowl, duck, snipe, woodcock, the aforesaid partridges, the occasional passing cuckoo brought down by a boss-shot and even — this for the myopic sportsman — one of Colonel Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chickens. Yet only the grouse are spotlighted in their predicament, only they have an Opening Day that everyone remembers as the signal for the *batute* to commence.

Every now and again someone writes a science-fiction novel, or makes a film, in which the birds take over and wreak a terrible vengeance. As far as research goes, no such work of fiction has turned the tables on man in the name of the lobster, much less the humble winkle. Yet they, too, left behind them mourning families, while the predators, napkins tucked into their collars, munched on, confident that nobody was going to make a song and dance.

On Monday next, then, our gallinaceous friend once more takes the centre of the stage. It may make him feel better, or it may not, to learn that Robert Benchley claimed that he had his PhD from Harvard with a dissertation on the Newfoundland Fishing Rights Dispute, considered from the point of view of the fish.

Press role in time of crisis

From Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fieldhouse

Sir, The freedom of the press — indeed of all the news media — during a crisis such as that which the world has recently entered carries far greater responsibilities than those of keeping the public informed.

The "second guessing" of every political and military option, the canvassing of opinion of this professor and that retired senior officer, the placing on the spot of Her Majesty's ministers under the glare of live television — these are practices which, while they probably make for a good story, may very well not contribute to the best interests of the nation and its allies.

The British mass media thus have in their power gravely to damage the initiatives of the governments of the United Kingdom and of its allies. Ultimately their restraint — or lack of it — will affect the safety of Allied military and civilian personnel alike.

In the Second World War the media were wholeheartedly at the service of the Allied cause. They constituted, in fact, a valuable weapon of war. By the time of the Falklands crisis, many valuable lessons had been forgotten: and there was much relearning done at that time. It is to be hoped that those recent lessons have not already been forgotten.

Yours sincerely,
FIELDHOUSE,
House of Lords.

Invasion of Kuwait

From Mr Ben Schoendorff

Sir, The Green Party has consistently linked industrial countries' dependence on foreign oil with the danger of world resource war and argued for urgent programmes of energy conservation and self-sufficiency as the only sustainable way forward. Such policies have brought us millions of votes in this country.

Yet, as the major resource war we have warned against looms, a dangerous lie is being propagated, namely that there is universal political approval of Mrs Thatcher's knee-jerk reinforcement of American gunboat diplomacy in Saudi Arabia. This lie has been reproduced in television and radio bulletins and in what purport to be serious journals working in a political democracy.

We wish to nail this lie now. There is not universal political support for military adventurism. The Green Party, for one, opposes attempts to impose military solutions on what is fundamentally an energy impasse and a critical post-cold-war test of our commitment to non-military resolutions of conflict.

The only sustainable way to resolve the Gulf crisis is to set about immediately reducing crude oil consumption, so that the crippling UN oil sanctions against Iraq, which we support, can be held in place permanently.

Yours faithfully,
BEN SCHOENDORFF
(Convener, Green Party international committee),
10 Station Parade,
Balham High Road, SW12.

From Mr H. St. J. B. Armitage
Sir, Mr Lionel Bloch's exhortation (August 10) that the US and its friends "must persist with their endeavours to eliminate Iraq's forces from Kuwait, regardless" is commendable.

When that task has been accomplished, will it be too much to hope that he will give equally strong support to the US and her friends taking similar action to resolve the basic cause of disension in the Middle East: the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem and occupation of the West Bank?

Yours faithfully,
ST JOHN ARMITAGE,
East Hornington,
Nr Wells, Somerset.

Tampering with cars

From Mr Alan Greenouff

Sir, Although "Slowing down the whizz kids" (Science and Technology, July 31) highlighted the fact that alteration to a car's engine-management computer will invalidate a vehicle manufacturer's warranty, it should also have stressed that such a change will also invalidate the motor insurance cover.

Motor insurers have been working with manufacturers to stop the practice on the grounds of improving safety on the roads and protecting drivers from their own folly.

Yours faithfully,
A. GREENOUFF
(Motor manager),
Association of British Insurers,
Alderman House,
10-15 Queen Street, EC4.

Natural history cuts

From the Honorary Secretary, Entomological Club, and others

Sir, The Entomological Club is dismayed at the proposals for staff reductions in all research departments of the Natural History Museum but we restrict our comments to the Department of Entomology, which provides the taxonomic means for identification of insects not only for pure research but also for research of agricultural, medical and forensic importance. The museum is the central taxonomic data bank for the world.

In her talk to the Royal Society (report, March 23) the Prime

Gains from cutting greenhouse gases

From the Director of the Association for the Conservation of Energy

Sir, John Collins, Chairman-elect of Shell UK (article, August 7) draws attention to US Government estimates that cutting emissions of greenhouse gases by 20 per cent over the next 15 years would "cost the staggering amount of \$100 billion to \$200 billion each year".

These estimates are, however, just one of a number assessing the costs of ameliorating the greenhouse effect which various parts of the UK administration have been compiling. They happen to be the most expensive yet produced and are based on the somewhat improbable premise that there is no increase whatsoever in energy-efficiency improvements between now and 2005. As Mr Collins states elsewhere in the interview, as providers of energy services the oil companies now have an additional role to promote energy-saving as well as energy.

The US Government's Environmental Protection Agency is to publish in the autumn the results of detailed studies it has sponsored, which evaluate the prospect for reducing fossil fuel-based emissions of carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) in each of eight major industrialised nations. Initial findings from these eight studies demonstrate that it is possible to act without incurring enormous costs. Indeed many of the measures needed to reduce carbon emissions will actually strengthen economies rather than weaken them.

The nations selected as case studies — the Soviet Union, Poland, the United States, Japan, Hungary, France, the United Kingdom and Canada — are each critical players in the greenhouse policy debate. Between them they contribute more than half of

present energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions in the world.

Experts in each of the eight nations were asked to evaluate, using the best energy economic models available to them, the prospects for reducing such emissions in their respective nations whilst assuming annual 2.2 per cent GDP (gross domestic product) growth. In the case of most nations (including the US and the UK) they concluded that it was possible to achieve stabilisation of emissions at no overall cost to the economy. Cutting back by 20 per cent — the minimum recommended by climatologists — would cost in the UK on average about \$70 per ton of carbon emissions reductions, less than 0.3 per cent of GDP (or well within the statistical margin of error for zero costs).

So far as the US case was concerned, the study estimated that reducing CO₂ could cost as little as \$15 billion per year, or 0.5 per cent of GDP. In Canada's case, even meeting the 20 per cent savings target would yield a net benefit of \$40 billion, or 6 per cent of Canadian GDP.

In every case, the prescription of these low-cost models is the same: use energy more efficiently, and you can both cut back on carbon-dioxide emissions and allow prosperity to continue, even to grow substantially. Continue with current profligacy, or seek other more traditional energy supply-oriented solutions, and you are likely to end up with precisely the kind of \$200 billion annual out-of-pocket cost Mr Collins's doomsayers predict.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN, Director,
Association for the Conservation of Energy,
9 Sherlock Mews, W1,
August 8.

Awaiting surgery

From Dr John Studd

Sir, Regardless of doctors' traditional conflict with hospital managers, it does seem disingenuous for Mr Duncan Nichol to threaten reduction of the salary of administrators if long surgical waiting lists persist (report, August 2).

Surgical waiting lists are clearly affected by the number of consultant surgeons. To give a few examples, West Germany has 12 per 100,000 population, Belgium and the USA have 11 per 100,000 population and the United Kingdom has a miserable 2 per 100,000 population. In my own discipline, New York state has more than three times as many specialist gynaecologists and even rural

North Carolina has as many as the 900 consultant gynaecologists in England and Wales. These numbers are hopelessly inadequate to do the job.

Against this background King's College Hospital, always desperately short of beds, has currently reduced the number of surgical beds from 69 to 41. Similarly gynaecology has been cut from 41 beds to 29 for seven consultants, and I am quite unable to service my out-patient clinics. My extensive surgical waiting list and two operating lists.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN STUDD
(Senior gynaecological surgeon),
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
August 2.

At work in Welsh

From the Chief Executive of Gwynedd County Council

Sir, Lack of vocabulary is the least of the problems which face thousands of people in this country to whom Welsh is a genuine first language (letters, July 30).

For over ten years, I have had the honour to be Chief Executive of a multi-faceted organisation with a turnover of some £160 million, which conducts rather more of its work through the medium of English than the medium of Welsh (not forgetting the French which sometimes comes to us untranslated from Brussels).

Welsh is the language of the management team, and the predominant language of the finance committee, where simultaneous translation is provided for the few who do not understand Welsh.

Many of the technical terms

used in the grant settlement, for example, change almost annually, but our councillors, drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds, take the Welsh versions in their stride, as does the County Treasurer, who is English but has learnt to speak Welsh fluently and effectively, and who generally submits his reports in Welsh.

Indeed, the very act of converting English jargon into Welsh helps us to separate the meaning from the gobbledygook. My masters are, of course, democratically elected. It is the failure of less democratic institutions to follow their lead which poses the problems.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,
IOAN BOWEN REES,
(Chief Executive),
Gwynedd County Council,
County Offices,
Caernarfon, Gwynedd,
August 1.

Population growth

From Baroness Elles

Sir, In your recent correspondence on world population (July 30, August 2, 6, 7, 8, 9) no reference has been made to the views of the Third World. Those who have served at the United Nations are only too well aware that there is deep resentment and legitimate objection in these countries to the population control policies of the Western industrialised nations.

Population is the real evil, not over-population. It may be worth recalling Adam Smith's own words, in his cogent argument about population control: "The liberal reward of labour, therefore, as it is the effect of increasing wealth, so it is the cause of increasing population. To complain of it is to lament over the necessary effect and cause of the greatest public prosperity."

It will be by the removal of poverty that populations will achieve equilibrium, not through draconian action of pharmaceutical companies.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA ELLES,
House of Lords,
August 10.

Choosing a bishop

From the Reverend Prebendary Donald Barnes

Sir, Archdeacon Austin, in his plea (August 1) for an Anglo-Catholic Bishop of London ignores three facts.

First, that the diocese has the highest number of women deacons, most of whom believe that they are called to be priests. To appoint someone who is hostile to their aspirations would be, if not unjust, at least insensitive and certainly unwise.

Second, that after ten years with a bishop of the archdeacon's own unimpeachable "orthodoxy", electoral rolls are at an all-time low — less than 1.5 per cent of the diocese's population, a mere 57,000. Third, that there is distress and confusion among many ordinary worshippers because it is increasingly difficult to find churches where the authorised services of the Church have not been replaced by Roman Catholic rites.

What is needed is a bishop who will bring back the diocese into the mainstream of the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD BARNES,
St Peter's Vicarage,
Belsize Square, NW3.

other areas of the world.

The current proposals to reduce the numbers of museum staff will severely restrict the department's future ability to respond to public demands.

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE F. RIVERS,
Honorary Secretary,
Entomological Club,
PAUL M. BRAKEFIELD,
E. W. CLASSEY,
HELMUT VAN EMDEN,
MIRIAM ROTHCHILD,
JEREMY THOMAS,
M. J. WAY,
PAUL WHALLEY.

High Winds, Cumnor Rise Road,
Oxford,
August 1.

Cool skills for a summer's day

From Mrs Rosemary Glaisher

Sir, There was wry humour to be found in reading your brief report (August 1) about the latest Japanese invention of protective jackets for cows to wear in hot weather. Perhaps general good health and milk yields could thus be maintained. However, one suspects that a fair proportion of British farmers, not to mention an overwhelming majority of British dairy cows, might prefer the option of an old-fashioned sheltering hedge, grown tall and thick.

All the more reason then to lament that so many of our farm hedges are still being grubbed up unnecessarily. What folly this is, especially now that heat and drought have evidently set in as a long-term problem. Our established hedges, as well as our woodlands, thickets and even some common scrub, should be valued at their true worth: recognized as essential green cover which would prove extremely difficult, or sometimes impossible, to replace in the parched conditions we must now expect.

Yours sincerely,
ROSEMARY GLAISHER,
Pickets,
Glavilles Wootton,
Sherborne, Dorset.

From Commander J. I. Ferrier, RN

Sir, The solution to Mr Colin Cripps's quandary (August 4) on suitable business dress is, I submit, the sarong. Three metres of colourful (or pin-stripe) cotton, plus 10 minutes with a sewing machine, provides one such benison. Six for the price of one pair of trousers. Further, it is easily the most comfortable sleeping attire (not excluding the zero option) regardless of ambient temperature.

One must learn how to fasten it round the waist lest it suffer gravitational collapse.

Yours in good faith, and cool comfort,
J. I. FERRIER,
31 Drybridge Street,
Monmouth, Gwent.

From Mr Alan Ougham

Sir, The necktie seems usually to be retained in warm weather long after the jacket (which at least provides useful pockets) has been shed. Even the violinist David McLaren, though jacketless (photograph, August 7), is still wearing his bow tie in the hot orchestral pit.

Since good-looking shirts, designed to be worn without a tie, are now readily available, it is too much to hope that "getting hot under the collar" will soon remain only as a figure of speech?

Yours sincerely,
A. J. OUGHAM,
33 Church Street,
Wye, Kent.

From Mrs Ruth Middleton

Sir, On a blazing hot day a man (wearing a dark jacket) sat in the Bear Hotel, Devizes, clearly expecting a business guest. The guest arrived in shirt sleeves, muttered under his breath something about papers left in his car, and vanished. The man promptly removed his jacket and had just concealed it by the side of his chair when the guest returned, wearing a jacket.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH MIDDLETON,
Berry Cottage,
Shrewton,
Nr Salisbury, Wiltshire.

From the Reverend D. T. M. Service

Sir, I am sorry to read that the golf ladies competing at Woburn were perspiring. Wisdom from the turn of the century always insisted that "Horses sweat, gentlemen perspire, and ladies gently glow". If, on the hottest day of the century (August 4), we are all allowed to move one notch higher up the scale, what is left for the poor horses to do?

Yours faithfully,
DONALD SERVICE,
Wear Rectory,
Nr Axbridge, Somerset.

From Mr Michael S. Morris

Sir, If Mr Hirst brings water from Riyadh (July 31), he will follow a princely precedent.

Visitors to the palace at Jaipur are shown two large jars which were used by a 19th-century maharaja to bring sufficient fresh water for his needs during his visit to London to meet Queen Victoria.

Yours faithfully,
M. S. MORRIS,
5 Sunrise View, The Rise,
Mill Hill, NW7.

From Lieutenant-Colonel M. Flash

Sir, Whilst swimming in my pool yesterday I noticed a frog keeping pace beside me. Unconcerned as he was I could not but admire his technique, head well up and legs well together.

When I got out he had disappeared, but guests that evening thought he might be in the outlet. There he was, huddled and no doubt super-chlorinated. On my gently lifting him out he gasped a little, then happily hopped away.

Yours etc.,
MONTY FLASH,
Pemberley, North Road,
Bath, Avon,
August 3.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

JOE MERCER

Latest wills

Carpenters' Company

Today's royal engagements

Forthcoming marriages

The engagement is announced between Second Lieutenant Timothy Giles Willis, The Green Howards, eldest son of Mrs Hazel Redford and the late Major Peter Willis, and stepson of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Redford, of West Byfleet, Surrey, and Maria Alayne, second daughter of Dr and Mrs Alan Rousell, of Orshott, Surrey.

Church services tomorrow

Ninth Sunday after Trinity

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a smiling man, likely a member of the band The Police, wearing a dark jacket. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like quality. The man is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a warm smile. He has dark hair and is wearing a dark jacket with a light-colored collar visible. The background is dark and indistinct.

HIS HON NATHANIEL BLAKER

Anniversaries

[illegible]

The Sovereign's Parade, Sandhurst

Rtn: M S Haley, Reynolds S. Cleve-
 land, Reg. C REME; L A J Hardy,
 Queen's C. Somerset, Birmingham
 Poly. SSC RAJ; J C Hardy, Palmer's S.
 Yorks; Yorks. Univ. Reg. C Kings
 Own Northants; Yorks. Reg. C Bourne
 mouth S. la Sainte Union, Northants
 Ion, Reg. C Int Corps; M Hebron,
 Tambridge Wells GS, Wolverhampton
 Poly. SSC RMP; R E Hemmings,
 Purbrook Park S. SSC RC; A F



ndhurst

[illegible]

permanent employment in the corps shown. The Sash of Honour was won by R. L. Cane.

Indiana, Exeter Univ. SSC WRAC: K
Robins, Barton Court GS, Carter
bury, SSC RCT: A J
Lethbridge S. Lethfield, SS RARC: A
Sharman, Archbishop Tennison's S.
R Signals: S C S
Churcher C. Peterfield, SSC
WRAC: L V Tomkins, Lagonstone
Anglo-Euro S. Essex Reading Univ.
R Signals: J K E Tvedt, Putney
S. Southampton Univ. Reg C REME:
J Welch, Portsmouth

[illegible]

Changing face

A stony heart in the Grand manner

No one has ever claimed that the architecture of Trafalgar Square is the equal of the Place de la Concorde. But it is the heart of London, and it is the quality, as Sir John Summerson, doyen of London writers once observed, that every building around it is classical.

Now the wraps are coming off the newly-reconstructed Grand Buildings at the south-east corner. When the competition for the site was won in 1986 by the architects Siddell Gibson with a replica of the 1870s Grand Hotel (which became Grand Buildings following its conversion to offices), there was heavy flak from architectural critics, who thought this was a prime site for an important building in a contemporary idiom.

The appeal of the old Grand Buildings lay principally in the stately way they turned the corner from the Strand into Northumberland Avenue. If they looked shabby, it was largely because much of the classical detail had been hacked away on the orders of the then district surveyor, who was afraid it might fall on the heads of passers by. The roof balustrade, weakened by a large Bovril sign, also had to be removed.

"We drew up the building with the missing parts," Paul Gibson says, "and suddenly it took on a new vigour. And the more we looked at Trafalgar Square the more we felt it was already fragmented and could not take a new building in contrasting style."

Now the scaffolding is coming down, the quality and panache of Siddell Gibson's replica is evident. The entire building is clad in stone, representing the largest masonry contract since the 1930s. When it is completed early next year, 27,000 stones will have been cut, carved and set in place.

Not since the Crown Commis-

sioners insisted in the early years of this century that every new building on their London estate should be faced with Portland stone have Londoners been treated to such a mass of sparkling white masonry. All the architectural trim is in Portland, while the walls behind are in Bath stone, a pretty pale yellow which Mr Gibson says will deepen in a year or two to the rich honey colour of Canada House across the square.

The new Grand Buildings are considerably larger than the original and include the site of Standard House, a ghastly 1960s intruder into Northumberland

'We felt the square could not take a new building in contrasting style'

Avenue. Floor heights are unchanged from those of the Grand Hotel, and the widths of windows have been increased by only three inches.

The original architects, the Francis brothers, played the early Renaissance game of "inventing" an Order of columns or pilasters for each floor. Siddell Gibson have responded by creating an arcade at ground level as handsomely proportioned as that beneath the Ritz in Piccadilly. Based on Bramante's courtyard in the Vatican, it conceals the garish plastic shop fascias which marred the old building. At the apex of the triangular site along Northumberland Avenue the architects have introduced a delightful flourish in the form of an octagonal belfry.

The next challenge was to replace the original diaphanous ladies floating across the facade.

They have turned to a young sculptor, Barry Baldwin, who is producing relief panels of endangered species, including larger than life gorillas.

Some pundits will no doubt greet the new Grand Buildings with derisive cries of "sham", "copy" and "fake", but if reconstruction is acceptable in Warsaw or Leningrad there is no intrinsic reason why it should not be here, in the appropriate context. Siddell Gibson's defence is a crucial and welcome recognition, particularly important in London, that the character of the city and the street can be more important than individual buildings.

Siddell Gibson won the competition principally because the internal layout of their building was considered superior to the other entries. The building is laid out around a fashionable atrium. At ground-floor level there is a full Doric entablature, with the triglyphs ingeniously adapted to conceal the air vents. In front of each column is a cluster of five chairs intended for climbing and trailing greenery which will meet half way up the seven-storey atrium.

While the offices, for reasons of fire safety and sound insulation, are shut off behind glass from the atrium, the lifts emerge onto open balconies so that the full airiness of the vast space can be enjoyed at every level. All the outside windows can be opened, though Venetian blinds hang permanently between the double glazing, partly to shield the view from below of acres of suspended ceilings.

Grand Buildings bring back to London architecture one of its most essential qualities, variety or eclecticism, after three decades in which the capital has been devastated by those who insist we must build only in the style of our time.

MARCUS BINNEY



Finishing touches: a stonemason at work on the roof of the Grand Buildings

Paths of urban glory

Volunteers are on track to restore rights of way to city pedestrians

THE countryside seems sometimes to get the lion's share of attention from that amorphous creature, the access lobby. The constricted town seeks escape in the open country and the articulate classes start to busy themselves with the state and status of the footpaths.

Back in the smoke, meanwhile, many a pedestrian right of way is dying of neglect, but the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) is working hard. It is running an Access Footpath Fortnight and has earmarked some speedy town paths. One beneficiary is Burnley, Lancashire, where, in the heart of the industrial town, there is a miraculously surviving wooded area known as the Clough. For the next few days its paths will be restored by a team of Scouts, Guides and local community groups.

At the other end of the country, something similar will take place at the Lonsdale Road reservoir in Richmond-upon-Thames, a spot of rare desertion near Hammer-smith bridge. Here, a team of volunteers will build new gates and widen paths for wheelchair access. The site is being managed as a wildlife sanctuary, and the trust hopes that in time it will be designated a nature reserve.

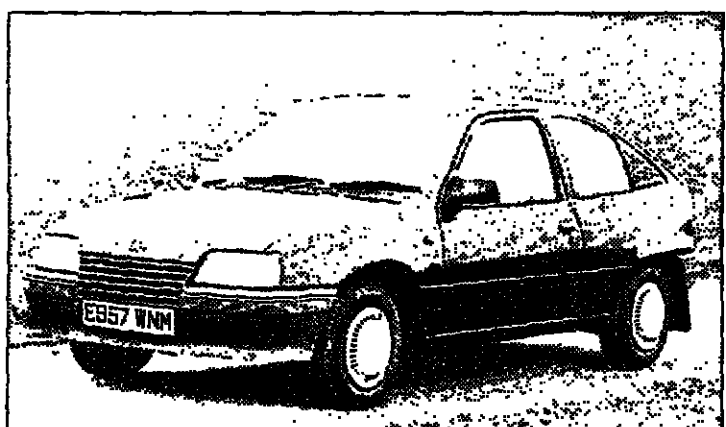
AN ENCOURAGING aspect of the work in Burnley and Richmond is that in both cases it is being carried out with local authority support (councils are responsible for the upkeep of pedestrian rights of way).

The BTCV, which trains 50,000 volunteers a year and works on 15,000 sites, already has several town projects which are aimed at revitalising some flagging green spaces among the traffic. These include the First Street woodland garden in Dudley, West Midlands, and Colin Glen, a derelict site near Belfast which, through the labours of the local community, has been turned into a woodland and educational resource. The trust has 630 local groups, 11,000 members, and it receives funds from the Countryside Commission and Nature Conservancy Council. Footpaths account for about 25 per cent of its work. A BTCV booklet, *Finding Out About Footpaths*, and a practical guide on the rescuing of threatened paths is available from the trust's headquarters at 36 St Mary's Street, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 0EU (0491 39766).

ALAN FRANKS

Who has stealer's wheels?

The lowdown on car thieves - from the artful dodgers themselves



Highly rated for ripping off: the easy-access Vauxhall Astra

SHOULD you consider driving a shed? In the language of car thieves, a "shed" is a car of very little attraction. A Skoda is a "shed" and so are Ladas, Minis and three-wheelers. Some models of Citroën are also uncool.

Graham Smyth, a probation officer in Manchester, knows all this because he has talked to nearly 100 convicted car thieves in his area. In Manchester, 90,000 cars were reported broken into last year. Mr Smyth hopes that his findings, gathered as part of an anti-autocrime drive by the probation service and Greater Manchester police, will help to protect city car owners.

Almost 40 per cent of the offenders to whom he talked, mainly in their teens or early twenties, claimed they could break into a car and drive it away within one minute. A further 36 per cent reckoned they could be in and off with a radio cassette inside 30 seconds.

Favourite targets for the thieves - because they are considered the easiest to break into - are Vauxhalls (Cavalier, Astra and Nova) and Fords (particularly the

Escort, Fiesta and Sierra). Mr Smyth, who is based in east Manchester, has had his own Fiesta broken into several times. Some Austin Rover models are also considered easy prey, particularly the Montego, Metro and Maestro.

The "sheds" remained untouched because they were too ugly, or too difficult to break into. Thieves may also be reluctant to take cars which are too distinctive and likely to attract attention, from vintage motors to beaten up old bangs.

Most thieves use a simple instrument - often a screwdriver - to force or break the lock. Some have skeleton keys, others simply smash windows. The ignition is snapped or pulled out and the car then started with a knife or screwdriver, or "hot-wired".

Offenders felt that if you had a smart car you deserved to have it stolen. Two thieves said they would not have gone for a car containing a baby seat, but a third would have broken in specifically to take the seat. About 25 per cent of offenders said they broke into cars purely for financial gain. Even

an anorak would have tempted 10 per cent to enter the car to rifle its pockets, rising to nearly 70 per cent for a handbag and about 80 per cent for a leather jacket.

Items most stolen from cars were radios and radio cassettes, handbags, briefcases and bags of shopping. But the majority of offenders simply liked the excitement of breaking in, driving the car, and showing off to their friends. Most stealing expeditions were premeditated.

When pressed about how they would prevent cars being stolen, more than 60 per cent said they would be put off by a good alarm. Nearly 50 per cent would be reluctant to have to climb in and out of windows, which morose locks would necessitate. Anti-theft locks on the gears and handbrake, or on the steering wheel would deter more than 20 per cent.

Mr Smyth and his colleagues are trying to rehabilitate some of the offenders with a project to find cheap but practical measures to protect the average car. It is proving an uphill task.

BERNARD SILK

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● **Cirque du Soleil:** French-Canadian circus with clowns, acrobats and jugglers. Jubilee Gardens, South Bank Centre, London, SE1.

● **Brest show:** Children's entertainment and city fair. Roundwood Park, Longstone Avenue, London, NW10. Tomorrow noon to 7pm, £1.50, child £1.

● **Ballroom blitz:** Celebration of movement and dance. Many events are free.

Royal Festival Hall, London, SE1. Today until August 26, further information (071-928 3002).

● **Aero-modellers workshops:** Expert Cyril McCann demonstrates his skills and offers advice. Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 (071-735 8922). Today, Aug 18-25, 10am-6pm, £3, child £1.50.

● **Great Dances summer festival for little people:** Danish theatre, workshops, storytelling, films and art for children.

Polka Theatre, Wimbledon and Watermans, Brentford. Today until Aug 18. Further information (081-543 4888, 081-568 1176).

● **National Youth Orchestra of Scotland:** Music by Wagner, Brahms and Edward McGuire. City Hall, Glasgow. Today, 7.30pm, £4-£9, child half-price. Booking (041-227 5511).

● **Pickford's carnival day:** A Georgian theme, including crafts, food and procession.

Pickford's House Museum, 41 Friar Gate, Derby. Tomorrow, 10am-3pm, free. Further information (0332 255363).

● **Working horse trials:** Including the first brewery draymen's trial with the Whitbread shires.

Chatham Historic Dockyard, Kent. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm, £4.50, child £2.50. Information (0634 812551).

● **Kirklees Soviet festival:** Musicians, singers and dancers. Open air performances, four gala concerts. Huddersfield and surrounding area, Yorkshire. Tickets and further information (0484 430808).

NEXT WEEK

● **Map and print fair:** Wide range, mainly from 16th-18th centuries. Bonnington Hotel, 92 Southampton Row, London, WC1. Mon, 9.30am-7pm, free.

● **West London antiques fair:** All items vetted for authenticity.

Kensington Town Hall, London W9. Thurs-Fri 11am-8pm, Sat-Sun 11am-6pm, £4.

● **International antiques drive-in:** A wide range of antiques and collectable items. Newark and Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire. Tuesday 7am-4pm, £2.

● **The great works:** Musical about the pioneers of the industrial revolution, performed by the Quaker Youth Theatre. Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Fri-Sun evenings, 7pm in the outdoor amphitheatre. Also, Sat-Sun 3pm in the warehouse, £4.50, child £3.50. Booking (095-245 3522).

JUDY FROSHAUGH

Help: Meg Dorman, cake-maker

A slice of country taste by post

AFTER the book and record subscription clubs comes something new - the Cake Club. Meg Rivers cakes, a different one every two months, are posted all over Britain and bring a taste of the country kitchen into urban homes.

"I had so many regular customers who would order cakes from me every month that I thought it would be good to introduce a club which would provide a cut-and-come-again cake, not a special occasion cake, that would complement our existing lines," says Meg Dorman, owner of the Meg Rivers cake shop, in the village of Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire. (Rivers was Mrs Dorman's maiden name.)

In April, an apricot cake with toasted almonds, heralded the arrival of spring and this month there is a harvest cake with wheatbran, cinnamon and apples. For Christmas a light fruit cake is offered to contrast with the traditional Christmas cake.

"Our subscribers can either enjoy the cakes themselves or buy membership for a friend: many of our cakes are bought as gifts," she says. "We have a fast delivery service: ordering a cake on Monday usually ensures you will have it before Friday - in Britain."

THE Cake Club also ships overseas but these members can receive only cakes containing alcohol, such as the "sailing cake" soaked with rum, because of the longer delivery time.

Mrs Dorman's shop is picture postcard-quiet, with willow baskets piled high outside the door and a collection of antique crockery displayed in a glass-fronted dresser. The owner, in a sprigged summer frock or cosy tweeds, completes the scene. "I'm usually here," Mrs Dorman says, "and I like to think of myself as part of the package."

There are cakes laden with nuts and dried fruits lining the tiny showroom in front of the bakery. Mrs Dorman is particularly proud of the "summer fruit cake" made with pineapple, cherries, orange and lemon peel and brazil nuts. Seasonally there are mince cakes, Mother's and Father's Day cakes and Christmas cakes. And there are always freshly baked biscuits.

Mrs Dorman's cakes are not cheap (the smallest cost £9, the larger ones up to £15.50) but they are all made of fine, natural ingredients: raw sugar, organic



Image of a rural repast: Meg Dorman says: "I'm part of the package"

This month there is a harvest cake with wheatbran, cinnamon and apples

flour and English butter. Some, like the apricot or date and nut loaves, contain no added sugar, relying on the concentration of dried fruits for their sweetness. Others have minimal, or no, added fat, or are made with a good quality, polyunsaturated margarine - such as the fig cake, with currants, walnuts, almonds, carrot, brandy, prune juice and mixed spices. One rich fruit cake can even be ordered made with rice and soya flour, for those who are allergic to wheat flour.

Mrs Dorman began baking her cakes at home and has continued to use those basic methods, al-

though she moved the business on to a more professional footing when her marriage broke up and, as she puts it, "it was a necessity to support my children".

Originally, only local people came to her with orders, but soon her reputation spread. Her turnover is doubling each year.

"I keep up good communication with my customers," she says. "They write telling me what they like, and I recently sent out a questionnaire to find out what they wanted in addition to what I produce - which seems, from the responses I have had, to be a good Madeira cake." Her original recipe, the almond fruit cake, however, continues to be a best seller.

VICTORIA MCKEE

● **The Cake Club at Meg Rivers Cakes:** Main Street, Middle Tysoe, Warwickshire CV35 0SE (0295 88 8101). Annual membership costs £48.50 and provides six 1kg cakes a year (six 2kg cakes cost £94.50).

Revelations of the dead poet's society

WE ARE all drones, it appears. "We have been turned into drones by the horrors of civilisation," says Peter Cadogan, the chairman of the William Blake Society.

Tomorrow, inspired by a deep belief that the 18th century English poet can still redeem us, he and other members of the society will celebrate the 173rd anniversary of their hero's death. Determined not to be morbid - because that would breach Blake's principles - members of the society will lay flowers at his grave in London's Bunhill Fields cemetery, read some of his poems, and then have a celebratory drink in a nearby pub.

Unfortunately, their day of thanksgiving has been slightly overshadowed by a degree of resentment. "Blake has always been fobbed off. He has always been treated as a bit barmy and a lot of people have been put off by the thought of him being a mystic," says Simon Clarke, the event's organiser.

Disrespectful attitudes towards Blake the poet, engraver and artist, are epitomised for Mr Clarke by the condition of the great man's grave, which is "very poorly looking".

Mr Cadogan is equally dismayed by the "appalling attitudes" to Blake in this country's schools and universities. "We are," he complains, "so bloody

After 173 years, the light of William Blake (right) burns as strongly as ever to his followers



Blake's work is the value of the imagination. Mr Cadogan says Blake did not interpret "the Fall" in traditional Christian terms, but as a descent into materialistic thinking which consequently inhibited the distinctive human attribute of the imagination.

"To Blake," he says, "the imagination was God."

He explains that Blake thought imaginative powers could enable people to transcend their weaknesses and eternally redeem themselves.

Mr Reeves believes the imagination can lead to God, and on those grounds he says artists should be more welcome in the Church of England in the way God welcomes Blake.

The society was formed in 1986 and is still growing. The first academic conference in this coun-

try to be dedicated exclusively to Blake since 1974 takes place in September at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham. There will be academic speakers from America, Australia and Canada as well as Oxford and Cambridge universities, but the society is anxious not to be seen as an exclusively academic organisation.

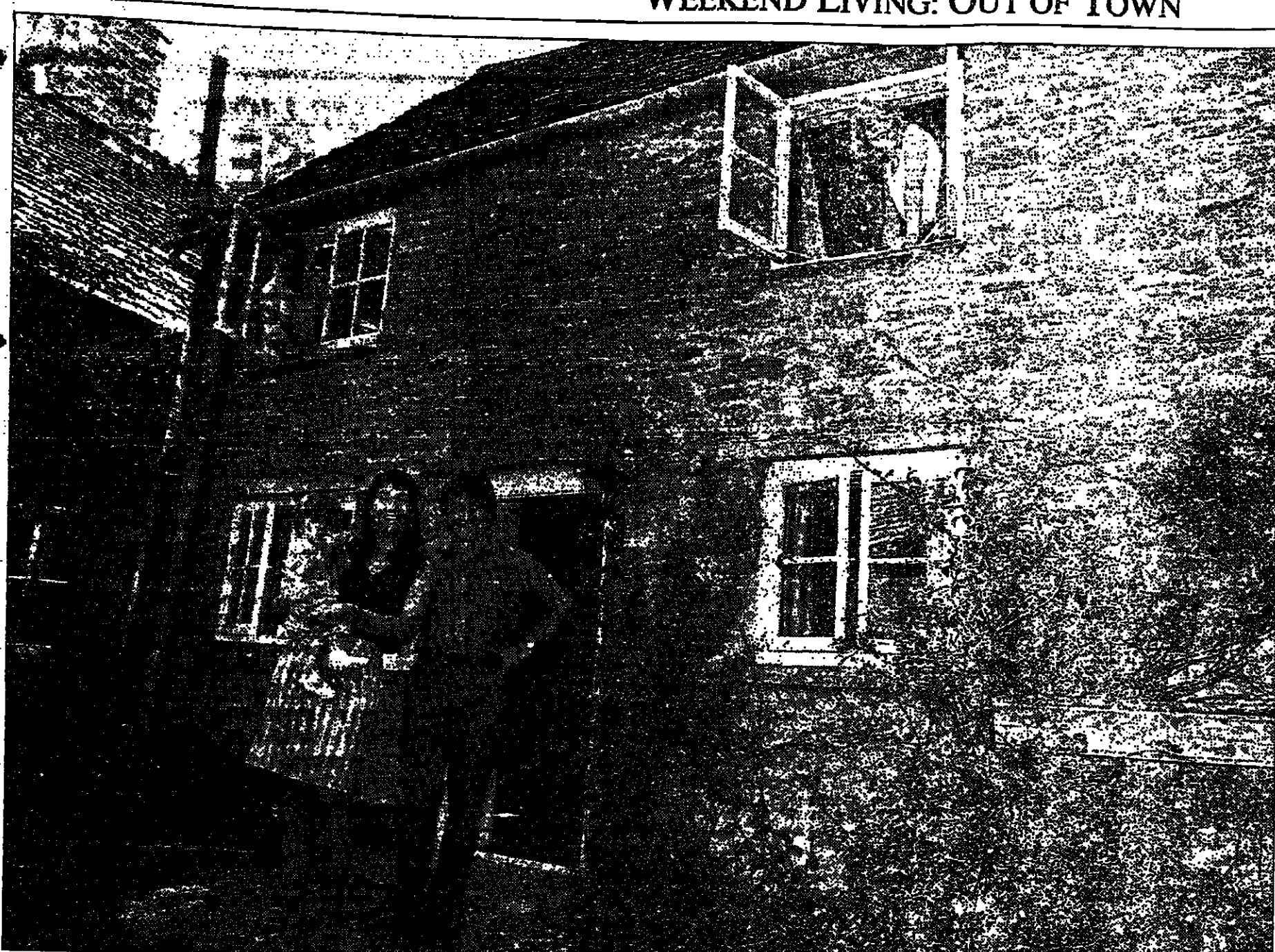
Mr Clarke believes Blake's message could be spread by the Green movement, because he thinks the poet's "life-enhancing" views encourage a greater appreciation of our natural environment. Mr Cadogan quotes from the 120-line poem "Auguries of Innocence" as an example:

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

However, the works of Blake are not famous for their accessibility. "You do have to work at Blake," Mr Cadogan admits, and says he feels that those who understand the poet must translate for others.

So tomorrow, while most of us enjoy the sun, the society will remember Blake and his wife, Catherine, who is also buried at Bunhill Fields. How can we ever know who will have really seen the true light?

JUSTIN HUNT



Firm foundations: Noelle Walsh, husband David Heslam and baby Clara outside the country cottage which they part-share with Richard and Hilary Talbot, seen at the windows

Noelle Walsh, the editor of *Good Housekeeping* magazine, knows exactly what she wants and where to get it when it comes to decorating her London garden flat.

At her country home, however, she cannot so much as order curtains without submitting her choice of fabric to an international committee. Choosing a new sofa bed demands the delicacy of a diplomatic manoeuvre.

That is because Miss Walsh and David Heslam, her husband, who works for Octopus Books, share the mortgage, the bills and all the decisions about their second home with the two other couples who own it, but do not cohabit. They may never be there at the same time, but everything is done in a spirit of compromise.

The curtains — a source of some merriment — are a "consistent" colourful reminder of what can happen when one party takes a household decision without consulting everyone else.

They are Designer's Guild chintz in bright pinks and greens and hang at all the 12 differently sized windows of the 300-year-old

Home from home

Getting it together in the country

Cotswolds cottage. But they were commissioned unilaterally when Miss Walsh was 36 weeks pregnant and trying to get the house ready to welcome her sister, who is one of the other part-owners, from Hong Kong.

"My sister was coming, you know, and I took the decision to get the fabric and have the curtains made," she says. "My sister has never let me forget that she furnished an entire flat for less than the £800 I paid for them. Fortunately, Hilary and Richard like them."

Like the Heslams, Hilary and Richard Talbot, the other couple involved in the co-ownership, live

in London. She is the deputy editor of a newspaper colour supplement and he is a solicitor. They have the cottage on alternate weekends on the understanding that whenever Miss Walsh's sister, Trish Collins, who is a police superintendent in Hong Kong, and her husband Trevor, also in the police, are in Britain, the house is theirs.

"We split holidays between us," Miss Walsh explains. "Nobody tends to be here at Christmas, because we all go to our families, so new year is popular, and we make sure everyone gets their fair share of Easter and bank holidays."

A rota is kept, as are accounts and notes of telephone calls made and other household expenses incurred. Food is stored in separate cupboards and money is regularly added to a kitty for unexpected expenses. The duvets for the master and guest bedrooms were paid for and are shared by everyone, but the couples each have their own covers.

"We don't make Trish share the bills, but she pays a percentage of the standing charges," Miss Walsh says. "Dave's quite good at working out the finances, and we've never had any fallings out over money."

"One small problem area," she adds, "is that the rest of us regard it as a weekend retreat, but for Trish and Trevor it's their home when they're here and little things we're prepared to put up with, like a bath that seems to take 40 minutes to fill, they're not."

"Nobody would buy anything for the cottage without the others' approval," Mrs Talbot says, "even if they were prepared to pay for it all themselves. You must remember it's their home too and they have to look at it and live with it. You don't turn up here on Friday night and find that the furniture has been changed. You know it's your space."

Everyone is meticulous about cleaning up at the end of their stay.

"We've been trying to persuade Hilary and Richard that we need a cleaner," Miss Walsh says. "But Hilary thinks that's a luxury we can't afford."

On the other hand, the Talbots suggested to the Heslams that someone be hired to paint the outside of the house. "We considered that an unnecessary expense," Miss Walsh says, "because Dave was perfectly able to do it himself."

The Collinses did not see the need for the dishwasher that the others welcomed, because they have a nanny who does all the washing up.

In order to share a house successfully it is important to have roughly the same priorities. Miss Walsh has discovered, "and to be in similar financial circumstances. You don't need to get on with the other people, because you don't ever need to see them, but you need to be able to trust them and you need to have some similarity of taste and be on the same wavelength."

The walls of the cottage are painted a simple white to set off the beamed ceilings, and there is no attempt, Miss Walsh says, to imitate the pages of a glossy design magazine with the interior décor.

The first (and only) weekend-end the Heslams and Talbots decided to stay together at the cottage proved fruitful and harmonious. "It was useful to have a chance to discuss things about the house while we were here together," Miss Walsh says.

"We had all these unguents and lotions and potions in the bathroom which we each thought was the other's, and we discovered they must be Trish's — or things people have left when they've stayed here. So we were able to clear them away."

The Heslams almost always go to the cottage with friends. "With work and our daughter, Clara, we don't have much time to socialise

in the city. It's easier to entertain people here."

The Talbots, on the other hand, who have an active London social life and no children, use the secluded cottage as a retreat, to be together and to ride and walk in the Gloucestershire countryside.

A grim ground-floor bathroom was converted into an attractive guest bedroom, and the second bedroom upstairs became a bathroom. "That gives everyone more privacy," Miss Walsh says. "Because none of us could be here to oversee the work we got a woman in the village to take on the job of co-ordinating everything, and all decisions were agreed by everyone."

A simple two-page document spelt out everyone's rights and responsibilities, which had been outlined in a group meeting. Everyone had to agree to stay put for two years, and if one party pulled out the others would be offered first refusal on their share and given the right to veto subsequent buyers.

However, Mr Talbot strengthened some of the clauses in the contract to make it clear that "any one shareholder could initiate a sale on the open market if an agreement could not be reached."

The Heslams and the Talbots think the venture has been a success. "You get to spend as many weekends here as you would possibly want to spend at a second home, without that awful feeling that you should be here every weekend," Miss Walsh says. "And we could never have afforded a country house any other way."

"Sharing also takes some of the guilt out of owning a second home," Mr Talbot says. "You don't feel hordes of you are coming from London to ravage the countryside."

The Talbots have taken more of an interest in the local community, Miss Walsh says — possibly because of their riding — and adds that the cottage is known locally as "the commune".

"When I first came to *Good Housekeeping* I suggested to the editor at the time that it would make a wonderful feature."

"I felt I had learnt so much from the experience that I wanted to write it up, and was sure that other people would like to know about how to successfully share a second home. But the editor said: 'It will never work.'"

VICTORIA MCKEE

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

In the mire over a pile of muck

FARMING is not a single occupation. Looking back over the past six months, I would guess that far less of my time has been engaged in tending plants, cultivating soil and caring for stock than has been spent in activities involving spanners, sledgehammers and shovels.

When the water trough needed a new ball cock, I had to be a plumber, when we put up a shed for the cattle, I masqueraded as an architect. I have turned blacksmith when vital bolts have seized, and civil engineer when a short roadway had to be built at the muddy entrance to a field. You do not necessarily have to be competent at any of these professions to be a farmer: you only have to be adequate.

But there is one area where a farmer must never show any inadequacy, and that is in his dealings with other farmers: not that I have been taken advantage of, as far as I know, but farmers have a natural inclination to seek a quick harvest and, if they can reap a few shillings from an uncertain novice, some will do so. To give you an example, I had a phone call the other day from a man who wanted to sell me manure. The first thing I asked was the price. Satisfied with the cost, I went along to see the muck. "There's 50 ton there, guv'nor," said the vendor. "Will you take it all?" Now, anyone who had been farming for some time would have known how much muck he was looking at, but for all I knew it might have been five tons or five hundred.

There have been many uncertain moments like that and when such a crisis of knowledge strikes I always turn to a volume roughly the size of a pocket Bible. It is the *Notebook of Agricultural Facts and Figures for Farmers and Farm Students* — 1924, and the compiler has the unlikely name of Primrose McConnell. Until I read the preface, I had assumed this authoritative person to be some fierce lady of the land who could plough like any man and spit nails into horseshoes, but I find that Primrose was, in fact, a gentleman, describing himself as "Yeoman Farmer of Southminster, Essex". In a sad introduction he dedicated the volume to his son, Captain McConnell MC, who was killed in action on the Salonika Front in September 1918.

This precious volume holds all secrets. Where else would you discover that sheep dung requires

four months to ferment, rising from 141F to 158F? Cattle dung needs a lengthy eight months and rises only from a cool 95F to 113F.

In my search for a figure that would give me a clue as to the amount of muck in the heap that was on offer, I noticed in passing that "the horse produces 12 tons of manure a year, a cow voids 57 pounds of solids daily". McConnell gives the chemical compositions of cow's urine, both stale and fresh; this, presumably, is to aid the keen farmer who sits with a collecting bowl. By the way, those in the wealthier shires who are unlucky enough to have an accidental seepage from stable to swimming-pool may like to know that horse urine has a specific gravity of 1.06. You'll float in it all right, I think.

The breadth of McConnell's knowledge is astounding. He tells me that in windmills, the millstone revolves five times to every revolution of the sails; at a wind speed of 20R per second a windmill will grind five bushels of corn every hour. More importantly, "1½ inches of ice will support a man; four inches will carry cavalry and light guns; five inches will bear an 84 pound cannon, and 18 inches will support a railway train".

This may seem to be a compendium of use only to desperate compilers of quiz questions, but to those of us who farm in a style of which we hope McConnell would have approved it is a constant source of sound reference. How else would I ascertain that "a labourer [usually me] can fill 18 loads of dung into a cart in eight hours", or that "a man can pitch 4,000 to 5,000 sheaves of corn in a day"?

My problem about the stack of manure is solved on page 15, where I am told: "To the area at the bottom add area at eaves; to this add the product obtained by multiplying the sum of the lengths by the sum of the breadths; multiply this by one-sixth of the perpendicular height of the eaves — gives contents of the body." In the end I decided to give the man the money.

However, if you and I should ever be doing business in the future and at some crucial stage in the negotiation I ask to be excused, it will be because I must consult Primrose McConnell. Farmers, of all men, must know exactly how many beans make five.



Breeding

Fancy a flutter?

PAUL FRANKLIN



Grow your own: the Malachite butterfly of South America

IAN WALLACE believes he has never heard of someone with an aversion to butterflies. And the liking is growing universally, to the extent that the butterfly-breeding Mr Wallace supplies Europe, North America and Japan with 500,000 pupae from 700 different species obtained from 38 countries every year.

His knowledge as a lepidopterist has enabled what he calls butterfly exhibitions, and what many call butterfly farms, to get off the ground in this country. And by initiating the establishment of breeding centres abroad, Mr Wallace has helped to save many rare varieties, among them the Birdwing butterflies of Papua New Guinea.

"They are the kings of butterflies," he says of the giants with 8in wingspans in all colours of the rainbow, adding that the destruction of their habitats, combined with high prices offered by collectors, have been responsible for their numbers becoming seriously depleted in the past ten years.

He mourns the loss of British butterflies, too. "In my lifetime, I would say I have seen a reduction of 80 per cent of British butterflies," he says. He knows precisely where every one of Britain's 55 remaining species can be found.

Mr Wallace's childhood hobby of breeding butterflies from the larvae to study in captivity — "I have never seen any sense in killing things" — lay dormant until 16 years ago. Then, at the age of 40, he was asked by David Lowe, now his business associate, to help stock a large tropical house on Guernsey with 5,000 butterflies, all "large and colourful". Initially, though, the more common varieties of Great Owl butter-

flies from South America, Indian Leaf butterflies and Giant Swallowtail butterflies from Southeast Asia were alighted upon. Mr Wallace then formed his West Midlands Company to increase and maintain supplies of such beautiful species as the Malachite butterfly of Belize, in South America.

Each day approximately 5 per cent of the imported pupae received at the West Midlands offices prove to be in a stage of imminent emergence. These are held and then marketed to local butterfly exhibitors; this must be done within 24 hours, after which the butterflies require correct nectar food plants.

MR WALLACE gives advice on installations, stocking rates and feeding, along with other technical background information.

He likes to see butterflies in landscaped rainforest settings, complete with waterfalls, and will not supply fewer than ten pupae, which cost an average of £2 each.

"You can't stock butterflies and then get on the phone to try to sell them," he says. "We try to obtain annual contracts from customers for the total number required, so that when the butterfly pupae arrive, we can despatch them immediately."

In this country, butterfly breeding is done on a small scale, for educational rather than commercial purposes, largely because in controlled environments virus attacks tend to take over from wasps and birds, the insects' natural predators.

SANDY BISP

Further information is available from Entomological Livestock Supplies Limited (021 550 0180).

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

● **Pirate adventure day:** A day of piratical activities at Wiltshire's oldest inhabited medieval manor house. Buffet lunches and teas. *Sheldon Manor, Chippenham, Wiltshire (0249 653120). Tomorrow, 2.30-5.30pm.*

● **Annual antiques and Staffordshire figures fair:** Dealers from all over the world. Also today, the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the reliability trial held at the college in 1950. *Radley College, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm.*

● **Buxton festival fringe finale:** Circus skills and radio workshops, story-telling, theatre, brass band and jazz. *Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire. Today 10am-9pm. Tomorrow 10am-4pm. Tickets from the information desk, Buxton Pavilion (0279 72184).*

● **Model railway:** Round trips on charming small narrow-gauge railway take 30 minutes. Also a comprehensive railway bookshop and light refreshments. *Porthmadog, today, tomorrow. Trips adults 60p, child 40p.*

● **Seventeenth century village:** Full-scale reproduction hamlet on a rare tract of surviving medieval woodland. Members of the Gosport Living History Society dressed in period costume re-enact the roles of 17th century characters. Guided tours. *Grange Farm, Gosport, Hampshire. Today, tomorrow from noon. Admission £1.50. Tours may be booked on 0705 522944.*

● **Woodworking weekend:** All aspects of the use of wood, from lumbering to steam-powered saws, a model steam engine rally. *Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Kent (0622 872068). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.50.*

● **Clowns' international charity day:** Clowns from Great Britain and abroad provide non-stop entertainment. *Bicton Park, East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Tomorrow 10am-6pm. Adult £2.85, child £1.80 — 90p if dressed as clown.*

● **All's Well That Ends Well:** Theatre-Set Up's outdoor performance. Take chairs/rugs and picnic. *Today, Stourhead House, Stourton, Wiltshire (0747 840348). 7pm, adult £4.50, child £3.50. Tomorrow, Kilkerton, Broadclyst, Exeter (0392 881345). 7.30pm, £6.50.*

● **Rockpool Rambles:** An opportunity to explore the marine life of the Durham coast. *Meet Souther Lighthouse, near South Shields, Durham. Tomorrow, 1.30pm.*

NEXT WEEK

● **Shugborough holiday club:** Daily programmes of activities for 8 to 12-year-olds, including rambles, detective work, art. *Shugborough, Milford, near Stafford. Monday-Friday 11am-4.30pm until end of August. Take packed lunch and waterproof boots for outside activities. £5 per child per day. Booking and further information (0889 881388).*

● **Island jazz:** Three hours of entertainment from Jeremy Stooks and the High Society Jazz Band. *Brownsea Island, Poole Harbour, Dorset. Wednesday, 7.30pm. Tickets, £6, include ferry (0202 707744).*

● **Teddy bears' picnic:** Games, competitions and, weather permitting, a picnic on the Mill Meadow. *Quarry Bank Mill, Sneyd, Winslow, Cheshire (0625 527468). Wednesday 11am-3pm. Admission £1.50 if carrying a bear.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

Feather report

Wallowing in willow, tit willow

I WISH to sing a few words in praise of LBJs. They are a fact of birding life: elusive, enigmatic, exasperating, they bear more responsibility for putting people off birding than anything else. But, for all that, LBJs are the glory of British birds.

LBJs are Little Brown Jobs. You see a thing like a sparrow for half a second, your companion says, "Hah, spotted flycatcher", and you resolve never to have anything to do with such a problem-filled pursuit again.

Well, some may stick at it: just as well they do not know that spotted flycatchers are about the easiest LBJ in the western palaearctic. But all the same, the LBJs are the greatest birding joy you can find in this country.

I came to this conclusion while on my hole in Africa. After a day that had given us blinding colours (crimson-breasted shrike), wild extravagance (long-tailed shrike) monstrous size (ostrich) and grandeur (marial eagle), a Zimbabwean friend said that English birding must be pretty dull.

Well, it is true that British birds cannot offer the stunning colours of Africa. One can make a feeble offer of jay, magpie and kingfisher, but with such arguments you are on the back foot all the time.

Birds in bright colours advertise their presence: this might be associated with territory or with courtship. What do LBJs do when they want to advertise themselves? They sing.

Funnily enough, birdsong is not rated too highly by birding people. They are bird watchers. Many birders have, as it were, a blind spot in their ears. This is understandable: Field guides can show you what a bird looks like, but not what it sounds like. They try, but all that hoo-eeet and pee-oo business can never really help.

The only way to learn a bird call is to hear it. The trouble is: how do you start? Nine times out of ten, a singing bird is invisible. Quadruple that when in a woodland, where you find the best singing. A bird is singing to the initiated, those who understand ("Ha, blackcap!"), but those that don't are doomed never to find out.

Easily the best way to become initiated is to go for a walk with



Robin Jacques

Jeremy Sorensen, the senior warden at Minsmere bird reserve in Suffolk. Someone once said that Mr Sorensen not only recognises birds from their song, he can identify them from the intake of breath before they start.

A May morning in Minsmere woods is a bewildering cacophony at first hearing. You need someone to help you make sense of it. The thing to do is to master the commonest calls, ones that rapidly become unmistakable. I have counted half a dozen willow warblers in a couple of hundred yards by a railway line: the sound is familiar to everyone. Once isolated from the background, the sound is never forgotten. Isolating it is a problem, but a problem worth solving.

MASTERY of just a few calls brings the world alive, makes it comprehensible. I have counted a dozen species between the station and home, about 200 yards, without seeing a single one. Songthrush, blackbird, great tit, robin, wren. But the glory of them all is the nightingale (pictured above). Not only is this a real performer but, to the amazement of those who have read T.S. Eliot, the bird really does say: "Twit twit twit/jug jug jug."

Walking in the woods with Mr Sorensen is an education, but there is another option: tape recordings. It is a matter of constant repetition. Play them at full volume for familiarisation. This is instructive: it is also a magnificent method of confusing your cats.

SIMON BARNES

● A Jeremy Sorensen tape of bird calls at Minsmere is available from Brooks Natural, Upper End, Fulbrook, Oxfordshire, (44-95).

Assets

Profiting from a stitch in time



PETER BOLTON

Tapestry of a collector's art: shop-owner Marilyn Garrow says that home-owners are becoming more aware of the decorative value of old textiles as an investment

People with Georgian or Victorian houses are increasingly decorating their homes with fabrics compatible with the period. But this is not the only reason that antique textiles are becoming more popular.

These old materials are beautifully worked and many are accessible priced, although rising in value at auctions.

While complete tapestries are beyond the reach of all but those with walls large enough to hold a 12th hanging, other antique fabrics can be displayed happily in contemporary interiors - expensive swags of silk, shawls or tapestry fragments thrown over a sofa or cascades of tasselled cushions.

Marilyn Garrow, who has an antique textiles shop in Barnes, south London, and also sells at Liberty in Regent Street, says: "People are becoming more aware of the decorative value of textiles. But they are also increasingly wise to the fact that they have a real investment value. Old textiles are rare. Pieces will disintegrate if they are not properly looked after, unlike furniture, which survives more easily."

"Few people buy them to hoard. They have a dual use, usually being displayed or worn. Some one recently came in and bought an 18th-century Persian wall-hanging instead of the Hockney he had been considering."

She says the particularly popular

with their dual wear-or-display potential. Kashmiri shawls were copied in Paris, Edinburgh, Norwich and Paisley, the Scottish village which gave its name and, at one time, virtually all its population to the hand-making of printed or woven fabrics in ornate Indian patterns.

Popular from the late 18th century, Paisley reached the height of fashion in the 1860s, when huge crinolines made the wearing of coats redundant. Once produced in their millions, Paisleys are now scarce enough to command prices of hundreds of pounds.

Less well-known are the "kirkie" shawls, with patterned borders and white centres, which became the universal Victorian

bridal present and were also used for christenings. Quilts, stitched in traditional patterns of wheels and feathers, made by miners' wives in Durham, Northumberland and Cumbria, now cover beds in more fashionable homes. Victorian patchwork quilts have never really lost their popularity.

Today's designer beds, however, are more likely to be covered with a 19th-century embroidered Spanish silk shawl or a floral shawl from China or Manila.

Fine European lace is highly sought-after for decorating cushions to heap on beds and sofas. Brussels, and Honiton in Devon, were both renowned for quality lacework in their day, and examples are still available at a

price. Late 17th-century raised work, or stumpwork as it was later termed, is prized for its intricate designs showing figurative animals and butterflies, religious subjects or the monarchs of the Stuart period.

The new interest in old textiles does not stop at materials which can be used to drape, cover or disguise. Those fabrics which adapt well to furnishings - tapestry wall-hangings, needlepoint cushions, heavy damask curtains, embroidered seat covers, neatly stitched firecreens - are all being snapped up by discerning home-owners who appreciate the value of fine craftsmanship.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Cast around for net value

The paraphernalia of Britain's most popular sport attracts a dedicated band of followers

One need not be a fisherman to admire the craftsmanship of old fishing reels and rods, or to understand the fascination of the innumerable gadgets produced for anglers.

However, presumably only fishermen actually collect such things; some to use, and some for display. But this does not mean the market is small, as it is claimed that fishing is the most popular sport in Britain, and the same must be true of many other countries.

American sportsmen have a longer tradition of collecting than their British counterparts, witnessed by the American wild-fowling passion for decoy ducks, and it seems to have been American enthusiasm which ignited the market in fishing tackle here, about 15 years ago.

Now, a specialist sale such as that held by Bonhams ten days ago will attract bidders from many countries, notably New Zealand, Germany, Japan and Norway.

Auction prices for reels have not moved greatly over the past five years. Bidding was certainly cautious, or perhaps canny, at Bonhams, and a number of the lots, of which the auctioneer had high hopes, failed to sell.

The names for modern collectors, as for users before them, are those of the great makers of the end of the last century and the first half of this: Hardy Bros, Farlow, Malloch, Alcock, Illingworth, and there is a curiosity value to some of the even earlier manufacturers such as G. Little, makers to the Prince of Wales in the 1880s. Hardy and Farlow catalogues can cost upwards from £50.

Two of the original Hardy

brothers set up business in Alnwick, Northumberland, in 1872 but for the best part of 20 years they concentrated on making split cane rods (as well as being gunsmiths, whitesmiths and cutlers) rather than the reels for which they were to become famous.

However, in 1892, by which time three more brothers had joined the company, they introduced "the new 'Perfect' Reel". Since then more than 120 different models have been produced in the Perfect range. The earliest can cost up to £3,000, but the mass-produced ones of the 1950s start at about £50. There were many Perfects at Bonhams going for between £150 and £400.

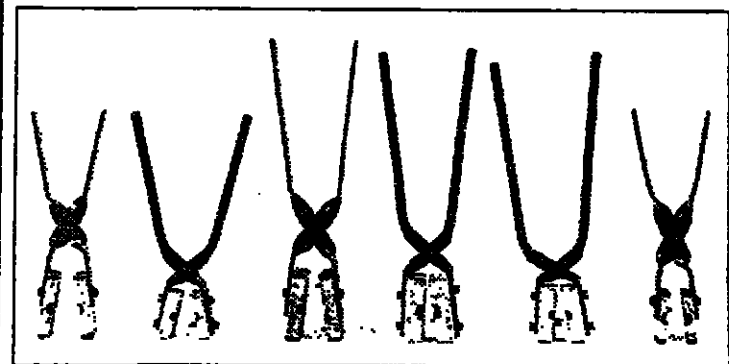
Other reels and variations, such as the Bouge, which could cost about £800, or the Zane Grey, at about £250, were named after the fishermen who commissioned them.

Rods are not yet as popular with collectors, although the craftsmanship involved in the construction of a split and spliced bamboo fly rod with a perfect taper is increasingly recognised. The massive older Victorian greenheart (a Guyanese wood) rods rarely cost more than £40, although they sometimes appeal to decorators.

Decorators are also often attracted to cased fish by well known taxidermists such as Rowland Ward or J. Cooper & Sons, and they are keen competitors for 19th-century paintings of fish.

These are mostly painted to a formula, with the catch laid out on a muddy bank, and they do not have to be particularly good from the artistic point of view to find an enthusiastic market.

HUON MALLALIEU



Fisherman's friend: brass lead-weight moulds at Bonhams

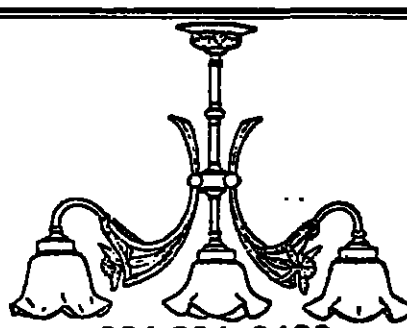
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Originals: Rhianon Evans, goldsmith

RHIANON Evans found herself at the centre of a gold rush this week. At the teatime encampment of the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, ringing to the sound of singing high among Rhymney Valley wastes, the prospect of acquiring some of the last gold from the Gwynfynydd mine, which closed last year, was irresistible to collectors of Celtic jewellery.

Ms Evans is one of three goldsmiths licensed to work in gold from the mine. From the precious metal - unlike other gold, it is sparingly issued in granules which first need rolling out - she has fashioned the images of Celtic myth and legend which make up the Mabonogion, those 12th century writings recalling pre-Christian times when Wales and Ireland were nearer to being one nation.

She also seems to possess an extra power, which she uses to work ghostly hounds, serpent dragons and symbolic birds, or fine traditional filigree Celtic knot patterns, from the 18 carat ore.

Rhianon, her namesake, was one of the leading characters from Mabonogion, coming from the timeless Otherworld of Annuon meaning literally "that without depth" to live among the mortals of Dyfed.

The Rhianon of this tale lives at Tregaron, too. She is self-taught in her art, gained somewhat mysteriously from a knowledge which she says, not disingenuously, "is not given in words".

Welsh gold is notoriously difficult to work in, as it can be brittle, but, more than once, when holding it to the flame, Ms Evans says he has felt her hand "being taken out of the fire. It is a feeling. I get what I want to do."

Ms Evans has made a cross for

Miner of a mystic lode



Evans: a feeling for gold

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a cloakpin for the Archbishop of Wales's new robes. Other commissions include the medal in memory of Richard Burton presented by his widow, Sally, as an Eisteddfod drama prize.

But her first work was as a silversmith when, after she had taken a degree in zoology and done postgraduate work, her interest in the sciences palled. "I wanted to live in a Welsh community and bring up children there, so I opened a craft shop in Tregaron, where I commissioned work from artists and craftsmen on Welsh themes."

"Then, in the early 1970s, I saw an exhibition of Celtic treasures at the Hayward Gallery in London. I was struck by how those pieces

were communicating after 3,000 years: here was I, a Celt, and this was what I had to do."

Rather than carving models of her designs in wax, she has always preferred to make hers in metal. She began working in ordinary, as opposed to Welsh, gold, and the progression to the Welsh precious metal came with a commission to make a television film.

"The Celtic cloakpin I made for that film is now in the British Geological Museum in London, as part of the Welsh gold display," she says.

Much of her inspiration derives from the finest Celtic pieces, dating from the 6th to the 8th centuries, which were removed to Dublin following the dissolution of the monasteries by Henry VIII. The fine filigree work has been referred to as "the work of angels".

Ms Evans uses saws, hammers and traditional tools for her work in Gwynfynydd Welsh gold, which she bought in 100g weights, costing £2,000 a time. The pieces she makes have their own collectors' values because of their distinctive hallmarks.

Her handmade wedding rings in Welsh gold cost from £150. Other items, including nurses' buckles, cost up to £500. Individual jewellery commissions rarely cost more than £1,000. A charge of £100 is made for an individual design. "I ask to know a little about the person the piece is intended for when accepting individual commissions," she says.

SANDY BISP

Next month, the Royal Mint at Llanrhyddlad, South Wales, will be promoting the Dragon Medallion, a limited 3,000 edition from remaining Welsh gold mined at Gwynfynydd. The medallions are available from Rhianon Jewellery, The Welsh Gold Centre, Tregaron, Dyfed SY25 6JL (0794 298415).

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ARTS

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PROMS

Trauma exorcised in eerie half-lights

After achieving a performance of Mahler's Seventh Symphony that was deficient in vitamins, protein and energy, the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen displayed much more wholesome fibre in the second of their Albert Hall appearances, including Nielsen and Ravel — better suited to the orchestra's undemonstrative competence. At the concert's heart, however, lay a magnificent solo performance: Heinrich Schiff's, in Shostakovich's First Cello Concerto.

While Rostropovich is still around and playing so superbly, any other cellist seems like a foreign invader in this concerto. After all, Rostropovich (for whom it was written) himself lived through the terror that Shostakovich expressed with every theme of this great, sad work. Every time he plays the piece, ancient traumas seem to be painfully exhumed for a grim but cathartic autopsy.

Schiff wisely did not try to rival that; instead, he was light and fluent in the first movement, where Rostropovich digs and stabs obsessively. But his limpid leanness was superbly apt in the eerie half-lights of the slow movement, and his playing of the long cadenza was intense, impassioned and deeply moving.

Schiff belongs to a new generation of cellists who will perhaps underplay this work's specific "Soviet tragedy" connotations, and instead reclaim it as a cry of pain for all humanity. He is a marvellous musician; it is good news that his appointment as artistic director of the Northern Sinfonia will bring him to Britain regularly.

In the same programme, the British premiere of *Indri*, a short but action-packed orchestral piece by the young Swedish composer, Jan Sandström, had the cheerfully chaotic aura of a fairground with too many sideshows. A pulsing momentum, touches of soupy pastiche, wild brass calls like air-raid sirens, and a generally zany, surreal atmosphere: all this helped the piece to live up to its composer's unpretentious description of it as "warming up music for the orchestra", though it will not win prizes for profundity.



Magnificent: Heinrich Schiff

The following evening saw the world premiere of Colin Matthews's *Chiaroscuro*, in an excellently played programme by the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox. Plenty of activity here, too, but much more thoughtfully organised: in a mildly disquieting atmosphere, background ideas kept forcing themselves into the foreground, displacing long, winding trumpet or lower-string melodies. Later came a quickening of pace, and superbly light-fingered textures, involving much quick, slithering string writing. As usual with Matthews, caginess and civility ruled; perhaps there was a little too much good breeding for the piece to startle.

The week had other highlights. Elgar's Cello Concerto, in the transcription by Lionel Tertis for the viola, was delivered by the flamboyant Israeli viola-player, Rivka Golani, with much spirit. But in concert (as distinct from Golani's excellent recording) the piece seems to have intractable balance problems; the cello's tonal weight is sorely missed.

In the same concert, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis gave a delightfully lithesome account of Mozart's "Linz" Symphony — easily the most elegant playing from this orchestra for some time — and then produced a cracking performance of Robert Simpson's Fifth Symphony, written in 1972. Knowing Simpson's reputation as a doughty symphonic thinker, a radical conservative who places much emphasis on musical structure, I was not prepared for the sheer physical exuberance of the work, propelled by a craggy rhythmic vitality and some brilliant brass and percussion writing. Simpson is long overdue for a major reappraisal. Perhaps in this post-modernist age — when there is no longer a prevailing orthodoxy or a snobbishness about things like times and tonality — he will receive one.

Another composer deserving serious attention again is Sir Arthur Bliss: a far more complicated and sophisticated musical craftsman than his "composer in waiting to the Establishment" status suggests. The City of London Sinfonia concert offered a rare chance to hear his melodramatic *scena* for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, *The Enchantress*. Bliss wrote it in 1951 for Kathleen Ferrier, taking his text from Theocritus's story of the furious Simaetha, who uses sorcery to recapture her roving lover, Delphis.

Nothing could be further removed from the English pastoral tradition than this wild, jagged miniature. The lady's aggrieved passions are conveyed by vocal phrases that spit with venom or soar into hysterically inflated phrases. In the background, the orchestra has the unobtrusive malice of the best film soundtracks. Della Jones, rolling 's with villainous glee, hurled fury to every corner of the Albert Hall.

RICHARD MORRISON

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What happened to bad taste?

Joseph Connolly visits *Graphic Design in America* at the Design Museum: a selective look at icons of popular American culture

Mounted initially by the Walker Art Centre in Minneapolis, *Graphic Design in America* is the Design Museum's first major exhibition since its opening last summer. The subject is dynamic and dauntingly huge — it is, of course, almost impossible to conjure up any lasting visual image of America without some bold element of graphic design dominating. But that, strangely, could hardly be guessed from the cool and slick presentation which the subject receives here.

Although there are over 400 examples of (largely two-dimensional) graphic applications, many are small and most are tasteful. This, combined with the airy acres of white walls and screens, creates an immediately more clinical air than would have been thought possible, given the subject matter. Unfortunately, this mood remains unrelieved throughout the exhibition.

The dark, basement intimacy of the old Boilerhouse at the V&A — which the Design Museum superceded — was far more suited to this sort of show. Such apparently trivial exhibitions as *Carrier Bags*, *Coca-Cola* and *Plastics* remain memorable largely because the form and colour of the products

confronted the onlooker head-on and somewhat glaringly. That approach would not be right for Turner watercolours, but was supremely apposite for stark and deliberately eye-catching imagery.

That said, among this very motley assembly there are some images that remain true gems — and these tend to be without exception the oldest and most familiar. The flowing lettering on the curvy Coke bottle, for example, dates back to 1916 — though that is an image which, it might be thought, the Design Museum would have preferred to have omitted, not only because of its somewhat *declassé* ubiquity, but also because nobody seems to have any idea who designed this enduring symbol of America.

The dates of other famous logos and design packages are even earlier. The 1902 packet of Wrigley's Spearmint Gum (displayed within a fascinating montage of wrappers spanning the century) differs little from its present-day counterpart, as do the bold shapes and graphics on Heinz labels (the tomato sauce, apparently, was originally called Octa-

gon Ketchup, which goes some way towards explaining the shape of the famous bottle).

The most pleasing exhibits here are clearly the three-dimensional ones which, without exception, are intended to be used and discarded — the true consumer *un*durables. Nearly all are by unknown designers. That is largely because commercial design was not regarded as a true profession in the United States prior to 1920. Consequently, a vast amount of excellent work must remain uncredited. Contrary to appearances, Andy Warhol did not design the Campbell's soup can or the Brillo box, though he certainly did much better out of them than the anonymous hack who did.

After turn-of-the-century wood and coloured paper biscuit crates, Royal Baking Powder tins and an astonishing Mazda bulb display of 1925 ("How are you fixed for lamps?"), the austere and self-consciously clever graphics of later decades can hardly compete. This is rather a shame, because the exhibition's organisers go to considerable pains to underline the steady progress made in the

areas of formal, clean design, as the newly created profession took an increasingly firm hold.

Of course there is a lot of arresting stuff from later years — the posters of Jean Carlu from the Forties, some delightful *Vogue* and *Esquire* covers from the Fifties and Sixties, and fine work for the 1939 World's Fair, which emerges clearly as a major influence on London's 1951 Festival of Britain.

The metal lapel-badges (or buttons, as Americans say) put out in their millions for every presidential election, are a diverting design history in themselves, although there is evidence of the copywriters becoming ever less whimsical. From a depiction of an electric fan and the caption "Coolidge", we continue through the Eisenhower-Nixon "Dream ticket" ("Ike/Dick — sure to click") before degenerating in 1988 to what is surely the nadir of imaginative slogan writing: "George Bush for president".

Overriding the exhibition are non-stop videos of film credits. This idea is something of an own goal, because although the exam-

ples chosen are strong graphically — *The Man With The Golden Arm*, *North by Northwest*, *Exodus* — all depend for effect just as much, if not more, upon their highly memorable scores. The perfectly horrible adverts for such establishments as Pizza Hut actually form a rare and very welcome injection. For the big questions that occur as the viewer wanders round the exhibition are: Where is *vulgar*? Where is *brash*? Where are *Superman*, *Batman* and *Dick Tracy*? What happened to Sixties psychedelia? Why have they suppressed Disney, or McDonald's? Where, for heaven's sake, is Las Vegas?

The truth is, of course, that America itself is its own graphic exhibition, the glittering chaos of its iconography quite literally lighting up the sky. If an exhibition ignores the gaudy, and hangs the more select and sober in straight lines and columns, it is doing to graphic art the equivalent of removing a goldfish from its bowl of water, the better to examine its radiance. *Graphic Design in America* is a fine concept, killed by taste.

Graphic Design in America: a visual language history. Until October 21, Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, London SE1 (071-407 6265).

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Pete and Dud and Jim and Jane

The actress Jane Alexander recalls the Fringe in the Sixties. Interview by Jeremy Kingston

For the final weeks of the London run of *Shadowlands*, the American actress Jane Alexander is playing opposite Nigel Hawthorne, readying herself to take the play with him to Broadway in the autumn. The role is demanding, but next Sunday — instead of relaxing in her Knightsbridge flat — she is going to Edinburgh ("up on Sunday, down on Monday") to see a friend acting with the University of Southern California on the Fringe.

The trip will be a sentimental journey. Thirty years ago, when the Fringe was a tiny fraction of its current size (20 shows, compared with this year's 400), it was there that Alexander made the decision to give up advanced calculus and move on to the stage. Industry's loss is the theatre's gain, in a career that has brought her Oscar nominations for *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *Testament*, and a Tony for her Broadway performance in *The Great White Hope*.

Looking enviously cool and sporting elegant ear-rings that appeared to be fashioned from thin slices of avocado, she recalled distant days when people had only just begun to speak of Edinburgh's unofficial programme as "the Fringe". "It was in my third year at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, that I decided to go to an English-speaking university. I wanted to go to Trinity College, Dublin, because my heritage is Irish, but when I applied they sent me a prospectus in Irish. I wrote back saying I didn't speak or read Gaelic and would they please send me one in English. When they sent me a letter, again in Irish, I figured they were not terribly interested in taking Americans that year, so I applied very rapidly to Edinburgh, which welcomed me.

"I went there promising myself I wasn't going to do any theatre. It was my real love, you see, but I felt I had to get a degree in mathematics so that if I didn't succeed in the theatre I would have learned something useful. But I arrived in Edinburgh and found myself in the Students Union looking at the bulletin board and saying, 'No, I will not audition! I will not Where

is it? When?' I was given the role of Nora in *The Plough and the Stars*. Then I was asked to do *Ophelia*. And when the summer came, and I flunked Advanced Calculus, I was cast in the Drama Society's production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*, which we did for the Fringe.

"It was a big hit and we got fabulous reviews, which I had never had before, because all I had ever done was in school and college productions. So I got a lot of attention. Of course the Fringe wasn't what I hear it is today. It was nothing like as enormous.

And I'm not sure people outside Edinburgh really knew about the Fringe. But this was the year of *Beyond the Fringe*, Peter Cook in his oilskins and Alan Bennett in Shakespeare and Dudley Moore playing his piano concertos that all got tangled up in each other. They were the guys to see, the toast of the town. I think people outside were saying, 'Beyond the what? What is this Fringe? I think that's about when it started to take off.

"It was a very exciting time and a wonderful place to be. I really didn't want to go back to Bronxville. In fact my visa expired and somebody from the Home Office appeared at the theatre with a ticket for me to go to Norway, which I suppose was the nearest foreign place. I said, 'No, I don't want to go to Norway, I promise you I'll be on the plane to America tomorrow.'

"I really didn't want to go, as I had developed a wonderful circle of friends, a cosmopolitan group that met at Jim Hayne's bookshop. Jim had started Britain's first paperback bookshop, in Edinburgh. It was an extraordinary place where he kept a sort of open salon. You could go there and read your poetry or you could do a little performance. He always had some coffee there. In fact, we dug out the shop for him. We went down into the basement of this antediluvian building and dug out the coal for him to have somewhere to store his books. Anyway, because Jim was a Southerner he did a lot of the offstage voices for *Orpheus Descending*, which takes place in the South. He was really interested in the theatre, and just before I left he said, 'Gee, you know you should really stay here and we should build a theatre in Edinburgh.' And I said, 'No, I've got to get back. The Home Office wants me out by breakfast.' That year he founded the Traverse Theatre.



Jane Alexander: "I'm not sure people knew about the Fringe"

"David Steel was another great friend of Jim's. Richard Demarco was one of our group. He and his wife Anne were always interested in the arts scene. Look at him now — twenty shows in just one space, and a production of *Macbeth* on Inchcolm Island every year.

Alexander's 24-hour trip to the Fringe will not give her the time to explore many of her old haunts, because Emilia Laurenson, the friend she roamed round with in 1960, is acting in both plays at today's Traverse will be possible. Watch out for a cool lady in avocado ear-rings.

SATURDAY

◆ KING LEAR Renaissance Theatre on world tour of Kenneth Branagh production, featuring himself as Edgar, Richard Briers as Lear and Emma Thompson as the Fool. Running in tandem with the company's A Midsummer Night's Dream. King's Theatre, Leven St (031 225 5755). Lear 2.30pm, Dream 7.30pm. £4-10.

◆ PROPHET BITES DOG Return of Ben Keaton, who won the Pinter Award in 1988, with the perversely comic adventures of St Pedimus of the Comfortable Sandal. The multi-talented Robert Llewellyn is the director. Gilded Ballroom, 233 Cowgate (031 226 2151). daily 3pm (ends 4.15pm) until Sept 1. £4-50.

◆ POPEYE IN EXILE David Glass New Name Ensemble brings to Edinburgh its bizarre, physical rendition of the classic 1930s comic strip. Assembly Rooms (Venue 3), 54 George St (031 226 2428), daily until Sept 1 (not Aug 13, 20, 26), 4pm (ends 5.30pm). £5 (£4 concs).

◆ GARGANTUA AND PANTAGRUEL The Lords of Minsule scored a hit with *Gulliver's Travels* in 1988 and 1989. Now the manically energetic two-man team turns to another epic, a Rabelaisian satire reworked for Edinburgh by Alan Leigh. Pleasance (Venue 33), 80 The Pleasance (031 556 6550), daily until Aug 24, 7pm (ends 9.30). £5-50 (£4-50 concs).

◆ DANTON'S DEATH The excellent Edinburgh-based Communiqué crosses the border from Fringe to "official" for the production of Georg Büchner's French Revolution tragedy, written while he was under threat of imprisonment. St Bride's Centre, Ormrod Terrace (031 226 5756), today, tomorrow, Mon-Sun 7.30pm. £5-50-£8.

◆ THE BIG MAN David Leland's first British film since *Wish You Were Here* is the opening gala for this year's Film Festival. With Liam Neeson and Ian Bannen, the picture combines 1940s doom-laden atmosphere with a contemporary critique of Thatcherite values. Odéon, South Clerk St, today 7.30pm (118mm).

◆ EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO Always with us. Edinburgh Castle (031 225 1188), today and Sat Aug 18, 25, 7.45pm and 10.30pm. Mon-Fri 8pm, until Aug 25, £5.50-£9.50 (add £1 for Sat 10.30pm).

◆ JACK DEE AND JENNY LECOAT: Dee has been, without doubt, Man of the Year in the cabaret world: his sublime set has taken him to Montreal, representing the UK, to New York and even onto Wogan. Jenny Lecoat is longer established: one of the funniest women on the circuit. Assembly Rooms (as above), daily until Aug 25, 10pm (ends 11.15pm), £5-50 (£4.50 concs).

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Stephanie Billen's selective guide to the opening weekend's highlights at the Edinburgh Festival. Cabaret items by Carol Searier.

The symbol & indicates events that are part of the Edinburgh International Festival. Venue numbers refer to the map in the Fringe programme.

SUNDAY

◆ BREAKFAST JAZZ Piano jazz from Pepe Le Moko, courtesy of London's Jazz Café and Jazz Management, which have staged a three-week-long migration of talent for the Festival. Café Coste (Venue 31), 3 Robertson Close, Cowgate (031 557 6849), today until Sat Aug 18, 10am (ends noon), free. More jazz events throughout the day.

◆ FESTIVAL SERVICE The 44th Edinburgh Festival's traditional celebratory service. St Giles' Cathedral, 11.30am.

◆ FESTIVAL CAVALCADE The Evening News Festival Cavalcade brings the performers to the people. Inking Festival, Tattoo, Fringe and the City. Princes Street, leaving Regent Road 2.30pm.

◆ THE GREAT DOCTOR YASUHARA The Japanese Chinkai Company under Koichi Kimura presents a black comedy. Hisashi Inoue's story of a ruthlessly ambitious blind man — a concept which proved deeply unsettling to audiences when it was premiered back home. In Japanese; detailed synopsis in programme. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Gindryl Street (031 225 5756), today, tomorrow and Tues 7.30pm (ends 10.15pm), also Tues 2.30pm, £4-50-£3-50.

◆ ARCHAOS Steamy French circus with a new show, *Boum*, and a new line-up to take the place of last year's even harder-edged biker pyromaniacs. No animals, just sexual acrobatics, decapitations, absurd comedy and roaring rock 'n' roll. Lathi Links, Lathi Place (031 225 5756), daily until Sept 2 (not Mon) 8.30pm (3pm show at weekends). £5 (£5 concs).

◆ LULU Riding high after Fringe First wins in the past three years, the accomplished Red Shift Theatre Company brings Steve Gooch's adaptation of Westland's tragedy. Pleasance (as above), preview today, 6pm (ends 8.15pm), then tomorrow, Sept 1 (not Aug 20, 28), 6pm, £5-50.

◆ THE SHOOTING GALLERY Winner of the Gene Moskowitz Prize as the best Hungarian film of the year, this first picture from Arpad Sopsits tells a true story in March 1982 a teenage boy fatally shot his father, then came on as normal. Sopsits investigates the killer's dreams and motives. Cameo Cinema, Home St (031 228 4141), 6.30pm (87 mm).

◆ SAITO KINEN ORCHESTRA Opening Gala concert with the former pupils of the great Japanese teacher Hideo Saito performing Dvořák and Brahms under the baton of Seiji Ozawa. With cellist Mstislav Rostropovich. Usher Hall, Lothian Road (031 225 5756), today only, 8pm. £5-21.

◆ HIDDEN AGENDA Ken Loach's contentious political thriller, written by Jim Allen and heavily overtones of recent scandals, particularly the Stalker affair. Cameo Cinema, Home St (031 228 4141), 8.45pm (108 mm).

◆ NO CURE FOR CANCER Smoking furiously throughout the set, Denis Leary focuses the stage and delivers demonic vitriol with a taste for both the outrageous and the absurd. Assembly Rooms (as above), daily until Sat Aug 18, 10.15pm (ends 11.30pm), £7 (£5 concs).

◆ MOONLIGHTING — TOM ROBINSON Robinson's musical ability has never been in question: the surprise lies in discovering that he is also a marvellous story-teller and a genuinely funny man. Assembly Rooms (as above), daily until Sat Aug 18, 11.45pm (ends 1.15am), £5-50 (£5-50 concs).

◆ FARRAGO — A JAZZ CABARET Returning to the Festival after an eight year break, The People Show brings a hotch-potch of Warner seediness, Faust, Film Noir, jazz and blues. Assembly Rooms (as above), until Sun Aug 19, midnight-1.15am. £5 (£4 concs).

For inclusion of items, write to: The Times, Edinburgh Festival Listings, The Arts Page, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN; fax: 071-488 3242.

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8.45 Open University
8.55 Playdays (r) 9.15 Umbrella.
Relax series for children (r)
9.30 This is the City. A simple religious
service from the Community of St
Francis in Plaistow, east London
10.00 Bugs Bunny's Year (r)
10.20 Film: Peter Lundy and the Medicine
Hat Station (1977) starring Laila Garret
and Milo O'Shea. A young man joins
the Pony Express and undergoes a
series of harrowing adventures
before being given the honour of taking
Lincoln's inaugural address to the
southern states. Directed by Michael
O'Herlihy. (Ceefax) 11.55 Popeye.
Cartoon
12.05 Sign Extra. An edition of *Holiday 90*,
featuring Antonicia, accepted for the
hearing impaired
12.30 Country File. The grand re-opening
of the Kennet-Avon Canal by the Queen
last week prompts new hope that
Britain's waterways will become a key
feature of the countryside 12.55
Weather
1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by
Speaking Volumes. An assessment of
current books. P.D. James and
Nicola Lawson look at Richard Ford's
Wild Swan. Ted Alibeu discusses
Polar Star by Melvin Cruz, and Mark
Lawson looks at life on a canvas
1.45 The Pink Panther Show (r) 2.00
EastEnders (r). (Ceefax)
3.00 Film: Khartoum (1968).
© CHOICE: "Academic accuracy
and spectacular battles are unhappy
partners. Said the British Film
Institute's *monthly Film Bulletin*:
of Basil Dearden's (r) EastEnders
General Gordon v the Mahdi. It was an
artistic and intellectual judgment,
but the commercial (i.e. bottoms on
cinema seats) verdict was not
desimmar. Viewed again after nearly a
century, it is not
Khartoum's uneasy alliance between
virtuosity and action that is the
blame so much as the theatricality of the
two central performances. Olivier
tried hard not to sound like his Othello,



SUMMARY

Tributes to Joe Mercer

JOE Mercer, the former captain and manager of the England football team, died on Thursday, his 76th birthday. A wing half, Mercer played for Everton and Arsenal but perhaps his greatest success was in creating the Manchester City team whose stylish play brought it the League championship in 1967-8, the FA Cup in 1969 and the European Cup Winners' Cup the following season. Pages 12 and 26

MOTOR RACING

Early promise

GERHARD Berger is the early pacesetter in practice for the Hungarian grand prix in Budapest tomorrow, with Nigel Mansell in a Ferrari second fastest. Berger's McLaren teammate, Ayrton Senna, will be hoping to increase his lead in the world drivers championship in Hungary, one of the more popular venues on the Formula One circuit. So much so that the only round in eastern Europe, has been guaranteed for another five years. Page 27

GOLF

Narrow lead



TRISH Johnson (above), the British golfer, maintained her challenge for a third victory on the women's European tour this season with a second successive round of 67 to lead the field in the German open near Munich. Johnson goes into the last two rounds with a one-stroke lead from Laurette Maritz and Helen Alfredsson, who both had course record-equaling 65s. Page 24

RACING

Battle royal

THE Princess Royal takes on professional flat jockeys for the first time at Newmarket this afternoon, when she partners Sao Paulo in the Dickens Invitation Handicap. The Princess, who narrowly failed to win at Pontefract on Wednesday when finishing second on Aardvark, will be competing with three women riders against four male professional jockeys. Three of the five previous events have been won by the men Page 29

SWIMMING

False start

ADRIAN Moorhouse won the 100 metres breaststroke but failed to beat his world record at the European Open Cup in Rome. Moorhouse kept the young pretenders to his sprint crown at bay but a false start cost him the chance of a record. Page 27

YACHTS

Costly voyage

WHO wants to pay £15,000 for an eight-month voyage round the world? Five hundred people have asked to join Chay Blyth's adventure and 120 of them are now preparing for their great challenge. And for twice that amount, you can buy a model replica of great racing yachts of the early twentieth century. Page 31

Bitter blow

Wigan's Great Britain rugby league full back, Steve Hampson, will miss the club's pre-season preparations because of an injury received at work. Hampson, a brewery drayman, has damaged his neck and shoulder.

RACING

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Smith and Fraser combine to all but wreck India's hopes

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of five): India, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 442 runs behind England

INDIA finally managed to bowl a side out yesterday, for the first time in eight first-class matches on their tour. Celebrations were limited by the fact that the vanquished team, England, had already amassed 519, they were cancelled completely when India's top three batsmen were swept away in the final session of the day.

England now have a wonderful chance of registering a third consecutive Test victory, and securing their second series of the summer with one match still to play. It is, in fact, the nearest thing to an open goal. India, with no conceivable route to winning, face only a searching test of resolve on a wearing pitch.

In relative terms, which is all they have to console them, India were in credit for much of yesterday. They have endured some abject days in the field but this was assuredly not one of them. Indeed, until deflated by the spoiler of a last-wicket stand worth 60, their two industrious leg spinners had shared six wickets in the day and England, having resumed at 322 for three with the sky their limit, had barely hobbled passed 450.

They were taken to their intimidating total by Robin

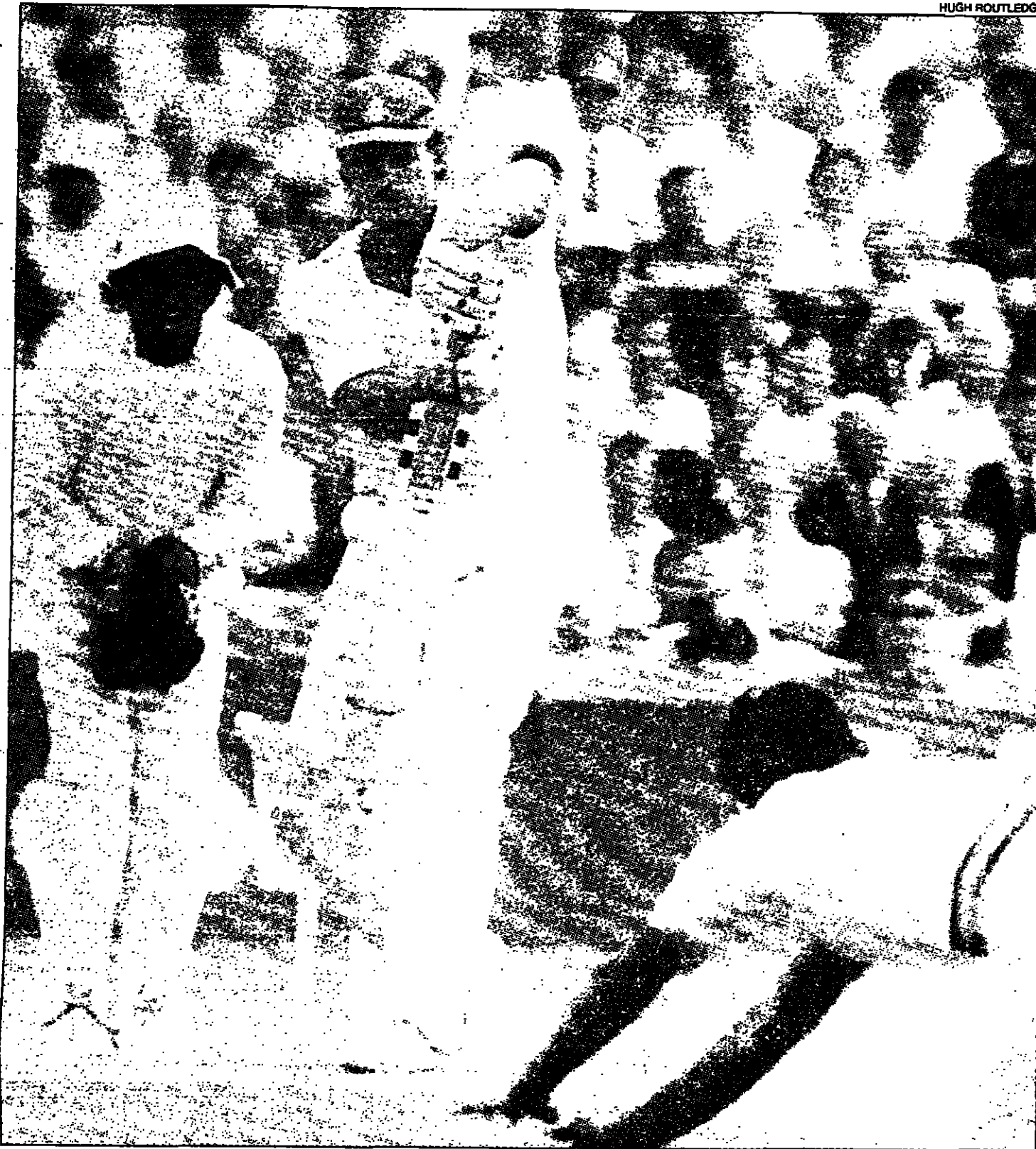
SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First Innings 519
(M A Atherton 131, R A Smith 121 not out, G A Gooch 116)
INDIA: First Innings 77 for 3

Smith, whose second century in successive Tests lifted his average for England above 50 and, less predictably, by Devon Malcolm. Until now, Malcolm's contributions with the bat had been a crowd-pleasing mixture of exaggerated defence and instinctive, aggressive swings. It often appeared that he nominated which of his two shots to use with the bowler still at the end of his run, and the most notable victim of this batting by numbers had been Smith himself.

In Trinidad last winter, Smith and Malcolm were thrown together for the last wicket against the West Indies Board President's XI. Facing the strike, Smith was again on 76 when Malcolm arrived yesterday. As he heard his century, he spoke pleadingly to his partner; each time he lost the strike, Malcolm, having survived two ambitious early forays, responded with studied obedience. Mirth mixed with appreciation on the England balcony, where Ted Dexter joined the rest of the brains trust, and Malcolm's reward was his best Test score, a princely 13, receiving as much as an ovation as Smith's hundred.

Smith thus became the third centurion of the England innings, just as he was at Lord's a fortnight ago. Yet there was a phase, earlier in the day, when he had been only marginally more confident against the wrist spinners than the hapless Lamb. This said something about



Close shave: Kumble just fails to take a difficult return chance offered by Smith, the England centurion, at Old Trafford yesterday

how well Hirwani and Kumble bowled, but something more about the techniques honed by constant exposure to pace, of England's two South Africans.

Lamb somehow scored 38 but he will not remember the innings with any fondness. He must silently have prayed that India would take the new ball, which was available at start of play. It was a forlorn hope; the one which started the match saw service for 161 overs, only 16 short of another Test match record.

Hirwani was employed from the Warwick Road end at 11am and, for almost four hours, the only change made was in the colour of his head band, which bafflingly alternated between yellow and blue. Lamb's mood was exclusively the latter as he pushed and prodded unconvincedly for all but an hour before giving a mercurial catch to silly point.

Russell had already gone, sweeping a ball wide enough of off stump to merit something more

orthodox, but the advent of Morris was encouraging. Positive, yet relaxed and loose-limbed in his strokes, he looked every inch a Test player, from his proudly worn England cap down.

Sadly, he let himself down with a rank misjudgment, stepping away to cut a perfectly straight ball from Kumble and losing his middle stump. If it costs him his place, a harsh yet plausible prospect, he will agonise for ever over that lapse.

Lewis was confounded by as perfect a leg break as one could wish to see, pitching leg stump and hitting the top of off. Hemmings then faultily missed a sweep. Fraser blocked staunchly in support of Smith for half an hour and then came the surprise appearance of Devon Malcolm, batsman. The crowd loved it and so did Smith. The Indians were not quite so enthusiastic, least of all Kapil Dev. The third highest wicket-taker in Test history had been sulking in the outfield all day.

Whether he was not offered an over, or simply declined to bowl, is not clear, but if the reasoning was that there was nothing for the seam bowler in this pitch, Fraser soon made a nonsense of it.

Bowling the immaculate off-stump line which is his trademark, Fraser reduced the Indians to ruins with three wickets for 17 in 43 balls. Sidhu and Shastri were both caught at second slip, Gooch knocking the ball up twice before clutching the first chance. Then Vengarkar, pushing across the line, tickled a catch to Russell and was on his way.

Fraser was now operating to five slips and a silly point while Hemmings had five men camped around the bat at the other end. The ball is turning, and even without the additional left-arm spinner who would have been so valuable, England have the Indians trapped.

County cricket, page 25

Zoeller gives PGA officials rough time

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

NICK Faldo was fully aware as the second round of the United States PGA championship unfolded on the Shoal Creek course here yesterday that his prospects of remaining on-course for an historic triumph depended upon him staying out of the rough.

For Fuzzy Zoeller, the former Masters champion, followed a second round of 71, which gave him a most creditable half-way score of 143, with an astonishing attack on the course.

"You can be a hero or made to look a stupid fool out there," he said. "We are cheating the spectators. You learn to chip and you learn to hit bump-and-run shots all your life and that's out of the window here. It is only four days out of my life and I can live with that. But what about the guys outside the ropes? It's the hardest damn golf course I've ever played. Par will win."

There have not been too many instances at major championships of the rough being so punishing. Most certainly, Faldo's contemporaries have rarely been more severely examined or outspoken as they have been since arriving.

Payne Stewart, the defending champion, is one of the leading critics. He believes that the PGA of America, the organisers of the championship, should have taken action by having the rough trimmed by at least 50 per cent, from four inches to two.

"You're supposed to be rewarded for playing from the fairway," Stewart said. "But also you're supposed to be able to play from the rough. That's what makes us different as professionals. You have to think. The way it is here, there is no thinking. You just grab a wedge and go."

Pat Rieley, the president of the PGA of America, spoke with Stewart. Rieley said that he appreciated Stewart had a point of view, but that the rough would not be cut.

What worried Faldo as he fought to keep alive the prospect of winning a third major championship in the same year was that the rough was stifling the golfers to the extent that the spectators were not receiving full value for money.

"I don't think it's good for professional golf," Faldo said. "I watched both Payne Stewart and Hale Irwin when they were in the rough only 80 yards from the green and they had no option except to chip out sideways to the fairway. That goes against your instincts. That's the time you want to gamble. Instead, you have to take a wedge and play conservatively."

In fact, Greg Norman proved to himself that there was no point in gambling when at the 5th yesterday he tried to hit the ball from the rough over a lake to the green 100 yards away. The ball finished in a watery grave.

Young wood

Oliver Overt, aged 14, a nephew of the 1980 Olympic champion, will be the youngest competitor in the Woolwich English Bowling Association championships which begin at Worthing on Sunday. He has qualified in a triple from the Preston Manor club, Brighton.

Salford signing

Peter Tunks, the former Australian rugby league international and Leeds captain, has signed for Salford, of the second division.

Public queue up as cricket sells out

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

Modern cricket is all about the art of public relations. However, this must never be confused with relating to the public. Sunil Gavaskar, the latest hero of this column, has provoked a flood of support from people fed up with cricket's indifference to mere people. Gavaskar, you will recall, rejected MCC membership of MCC because of the behaviour of the Lord's stewards. One former MCC member writes to tell me he finally resigned after 35 years because of them. "I was always made to feel like a trespasser," he said. I hear tales of woe about cricket catering: profiteering, inedible food, lager served *bien chambre*, and bar staff that look and behave like Grendel.

So much for relating to the public; on to the far more important subject of public relations. For the next Test match at the Oval, they are going to paint the outfield with a dirty great Cornhill logo. It will cover 27 square metres. This will not generate more income: it is apparently "an experiment". That means cash tomorrow, with the added bonus of toadying to sponsors today.

If you find the thought of a logo legible at 2,000 feet unsatisfactory, you will be pleased to hear that England shirts are for sale. New regulations permit "discreet" advertising on the shirts of international cricketers. Tenders are being invited for a place on the sleeves and bosoms of England's cricketers, for a minimum of one and a maximum of three years. Memo to the Test and County

A match for Gooch

As I tap out these words in the Old Trafford press box, I learn that greater deeds have been performed elsewhere. Salutations to Gary Thomas, aged 15 and a Cornwall colt who, in a recent junior match in St Just, scored an unbeaten 282 in 40 overs, an innings that included 27 sixes. Beat that, Mr Gooch.

Beating the blockade

Few people get one up on the Lord's stewards. Even Sir George ("Gubby") Allen, one of the most important people in the history of MCC, had trouble with them. He was once refused entry to the pavilion when he arrived without a pass. However, he produced a key and let himself in through an adjacent door. I would have loved to see the steward's face.

Surprisingly enough the cricket fanzine, *Johnny Miller 96 Not Out*, also got one up on the stewards at the recent Benson and Hedges Cup final. Lord's, affronted by the very notion of a fanzine, asked the

police to "move on" the people selling it. But the police had already given the nod to a request from the sellers to approach the queue: faced with the Lord's blockade, they seized on the perfect solution. They asked the fanzine chaps to address the queue from around the corner. They did so, and sold more than 100 copies. All well and good — but really, pettiness and pomposity like this do Lord's and cricket no favours.

● Australian sport is rife with sexism. Well, it needs no ghost from the grave to tell us that, but Australia's sex discrimination commissioner, Quentin Bryce, has been spelling out a few truths. The most blatant forms of discrimination have disappeared, "but women have a good distance to travel before they reach the goal of equality of opportunity and equal status in a significant part of the Australian way of life. sport". A "pathetic" two per cent of media sports coverage in Australia is given over to women's sport; the "constant denigration of women's sport" has led to three times as many men as women participating in sport. How much further ahead is British sport, I wonder?

The silent treatment

Micky Stewart, the England cricket manager, is famous for liking who he likes and despising those he does not. He always got on with Gating; his relationship with Gooch has helped raise England to their present heights. All three are

no-nonsense "bloke" sort of blokes. But Stewart has never got on with any captain who seemed even remotely *nobby*. Connoisseurs of post-match press conferences recall his careful failure to give his full support to Gower, and his contradiction of everything Roebuck said on that brief sojourn in The Netherlands was a collector's item. Chris Cowdrey is still pained at his treatment by the England cricket set-up in 1988: picked as captain for a new dawn, injured, and never seen again. Cowdrey recalls Stewart appearing at a county match before that fourth Test match, in which Cowdrey was there for Kent, Stewart for Surrey. Stewart did not even speak to him: a really quite startling omission. This comes from Ivo Tennant's recent and revealing book, *The Cowdreys*.

Scaling new heights

The phone shrills in the Old Trafford press box, and the hot news from Italy reaches me: we have a new record for the journey from the church in Cervinia to the top of the Matterhorn and back. Jean Pelissier set the record of eight hours and 40 minutes in 1946, but yesterday Valerio Bertoglio shattered it. He set off from the church at six in the morning and was back before the pubs were open. A helicopter was on hand to see that he really did make the summit: he did, and returned — running — to the church in a time of four hours and 16 minutes.

Can we seriously meet our energy demands without nuclear power?

1989	INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
POPULATION	1	11
ENERGY	1111	1
2020	INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
POPULATION	1	1111
ENERGY	1111	1111

Energy consumption worldwide has grown some twenty fold since 1850. There is a view that energy demand for the industrial nations could even treble in the next 30 years.

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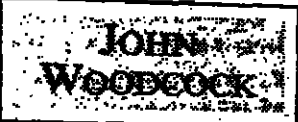
Azharuddin's batsmen must show they have the stomach for a fight, while Hirwani demonstrates the way for the bowlers

Time to show some grit

Crucial game meanders to an inevitable draw

IN THE end, the extent of India's defeat at Old Trafford may depend upon whether they bat as though playing in the Torquay Festival, as they did at Lord's, or as if they were trying to save a Test match. It is no good their claiming that the long defensive innings is not their game, because it can be, and the time quite often comes when it is the only realistic option.

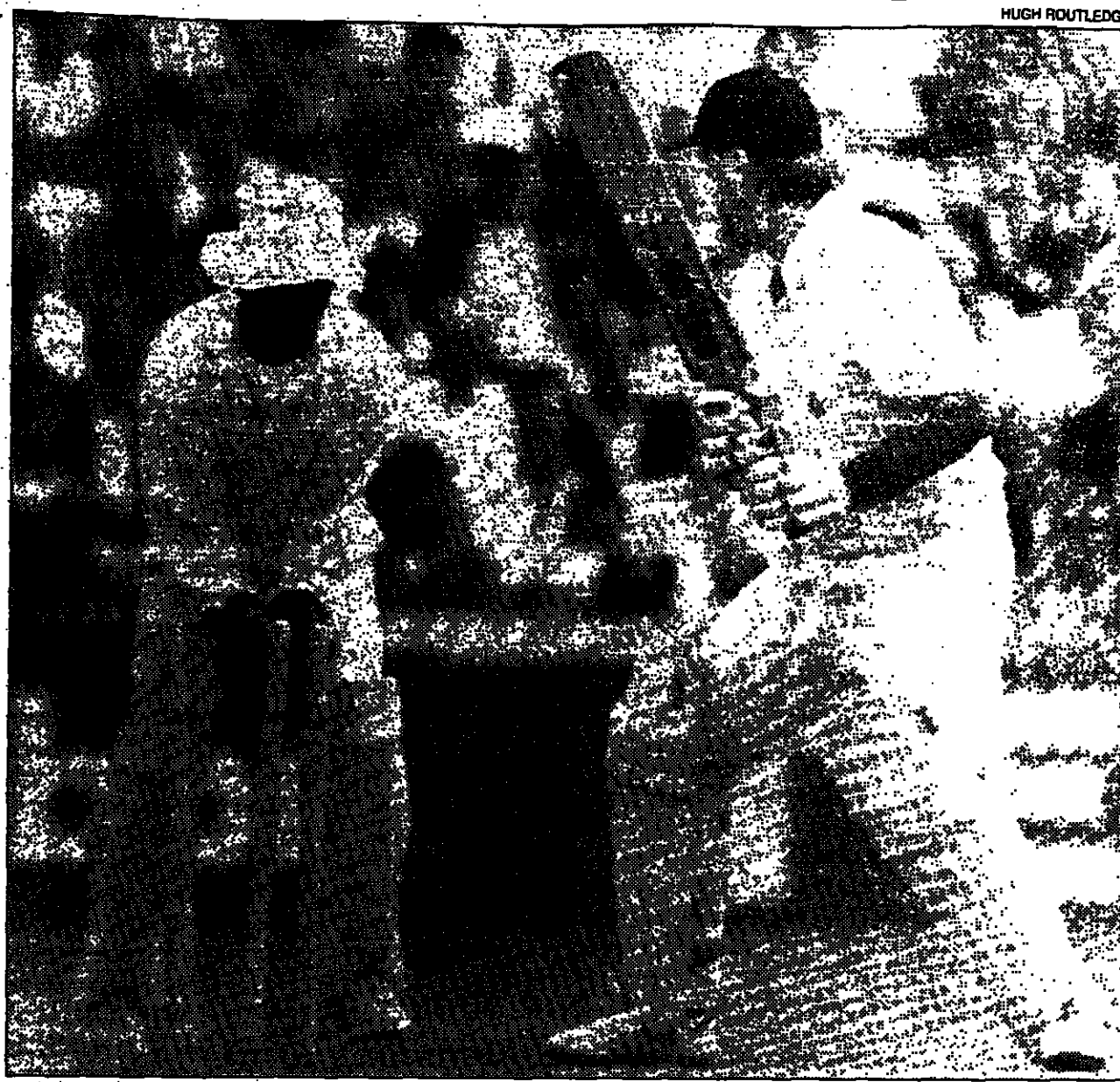
Yesterday Azharuddin was pragmatic enough not to hand the ball at all to Kapil Dev, nor to Prabhakar until well into the afternoon. I have often thought what a questionable investment it was to start at great expense the Dennis Lillee School of Fast Bowling in Madras, where Lillee himself is in quite regular attendance.



India's best chance of bowling sides out will always be to do all they can to encourage spin — of the orthodox variety (Mankad, Bedi, Prasanna, Venkat), augmented by the twisters. At the time of independence the best fast bowlers on the sub-continent, those from the north-west, were annexed by Pakistan. Kapil Dev, now rather past it, has been the exception that proves the rule. There has never been another, and the climate and national character are against there being any more, even with Lillee's support.

Hirwani bowled beautifully yesterday and with the utmost perseverance. Only Smith of England's batsmen played him with confidence. But the pitch is still slow enough for more than one stroke to be played to the same ball. It is this, of course, which the leg spinner finds so debilitating about English pitches.

Judged on his form over the years against Indian and Paki-



HUGH ROUTLEDGE

stani spin, Lamb would never have been chosen to play for England as often as he has. But Australia have no spin to speak of, and he is unlikely to look as uncomfortable there next winter as he did against Hirwani here. Nor, really, was it possible to get much idea of how Morris would fare in Australia from the way he played yesterday.

Lost and found: Morris loses his way cutting and finds his castle wrecked by Kumble. Even so, he was in for long enough to look the strong, abundantly natural player he is. He was out, as Fairbrother usually was against New Zealand, through impatience. But he had to come in, as he did at Lord's, with a huge score already on the board and no particular need for runs. I was sorry Gooch had not allowed him to bat at No. 3, once

England had 114 on the board without loss at lunch on Thursday. It would have given Morris more scope and us a better chance to see what he is made of. With the old codgers among us, though, he still won a red tick by batting in a proper England cap, rather than a helmet or an upturned axtex saucer.

At the start of each of the

first two days there has been an indication of how the Indians have viewed their prospects. As early as the second over of the match Azharuddin took a third slip cover. Yesterday, in the betting shop, I listened to an Indian taking 6-1 against an England wicket falling before lunch.

By RICHARD STREETON

BOURNEMOUTH (final day of three): Hampshire (41st) drew with Middlesex (51)

ONCE Hampshire saved the follow-on it was almost inevitable, in this day and age, that the match between the two main rivals for the championship was destined to be drawn. There was a brief flicker of excitement as Bakker and Marshall reduced Middlesex to 23 for four, but Gattling and Dowdson saw Middlesex to safety. Given that neither side wanted to lose, or rather that they could not afford to let their opponents have any chance to win, the tactics were perfectly acceptable as county cricket is played nowadays. Hampshire made certain that Middlesex would have to bat again 40 minutes before lunch, and 80 overs remained. It was hard not to wonder whether the game would not have been kept alive if Lionel Tennyson or Walter Robins had been the captains.

Hampshire's arrears were down to 134 when their innings came to its end 15 minutes after lunch, and the early Middlesex setbacks followed. Haynes was caught off his glove first ball, and Ramprakash did not offer a stroke as Marshall had him leg-before in his first over.

Butler next undid Roseberry, with extra bounce and had him taken at second slip. Marshall

Britannic Assurance
championship table

	P	W	L	D	R	B	Pts
Middlesex (3)	16	7	0	8	51	35	188
Warwickshire (9)	16	6	5	5	62	50	180
Hampshire (7)	16	5	5	5	51	38	179
Leicestershire (5)	17	5	5	5	50	47	177
Derbyshire (8)	17	5	5	5	49	38	167
Essex (2)	17	5	5	5	50	33	163
Worcestershire (1)	18	4	4	4	45	37	148
Gloucestershire (17)	17	3	10	4	45	32	145
Nottinghamshire (11)	16	4	4	4	33	44	141
Yorkshire (16)	17	3	7	7	41	42	131
Surrey (12)	16	2	11	4	40	43	128
Kent (15)	16	3	5	5	48	25	121
Northants (5)	16	2	8	5	42	44	118
Somerset (14)	18	1	14	5	38	35	110
Gloucestershire (9)	16	2	6	8	33	40	109
Sussex (10)	16	2	6	8	39	30	107

(1989 positions in brackets)

Ayling and Maru approached the task differently. Ayling used his height and reach to smother the spin, but drove and swept when the ball was anything short. Both men prospered against Cowans and Hughes when Middlesex took the new ball. They had added 72 in 19 overs when Ayling was out with ten still wanted.

Ayling drove a straight six before he tried for another and was caught. Parks took the score to the required 281 before he became the first of the three wickets for Taylor, the locally born seamer.

Nottinghamshire are to appoint a first-team coach who will eventually take over from Ken Taylor, the club's cricket manager.

Pugnacious stand delays the end

By STEPHEN THORPE

KIDDERMINSTER (final day of three): Worcestershire (24th) beat Lancashire (2) by ten wickets

THE latest early finish at Kidderminster should not detract from a thoroughly commendable all-round performance from Worcestershire as Lancashire foundered by ten wickets immediately after lunch. Lancashire, who began requiring 129 to make Worcestershire's target, were caught in the inevitable trap of an alliance of 123 in 31 overs between Austin and Fairbrother.

Lancashire's plight came as no real surprise. Leicestershire lost here last season after some of their players had eaten disagreeable food, and Nottinghamshire and Sussex have also succumbed meekly since their first cricket returned in 1987.

The pitch was not to blame, even though lower bounce was occasionally evident as Lancashire lost 16 wickets on the second day. Alan Ormrod, their coach, called it the worst batting effort in his ten years at Old Trafford. Jesty's resistance

ended in the first over of the day when, having just driven Illingworth through the covers, he stepped out to force the last ball and was bowled.

Austin filled the breach admirably alongside Fairbrother, who was batting down the order after suffering a slight concussion in the first innings. Austin struck three sixes off Illingworth, all driven with perfect weight and timing. Fairbrother launched his own fusillade when Hick appeared.

However, when Lancashire were still a run short in total of Worcestershire's 451, Lampitt held a good tumbling catch by his ankles at long-off to remove Austin. His pugnacious rear-guard action produced the third half-century of his career. Hick's off spin at once accounted for Hughes, caught at short leg, and when Illingworth worked Martin, Fairbrother was left unbeaten on 64.

Worcestershire needed just seven runs for a comprehensive victory and Curtis delivered it in only two balls, striking Lloyd through the covers and then admiring four wickets.

Somerset thwarted by Robinson and Evans

By JACK BAILEY

WESTON-SUPER-MARE (final day of three): Somerset (5th) drew with Nottinghamshire (51)

SOMERSET'S dream of a second championship victory bordered on reality when, at 1pm with three hours 40 minutes of play left, Mallerender had Randall caught at the wicket for a pair, to end an unhappy match for the old master. At this stage, Nottinghamshire were 96 for five and 54 runs in arrears, and Mallerender was consistently exploiting a spot at the town end from which the ball lifted steeply.

But it came Evans to join Robinson, his captain. Gradually, but surely dreams of glory receded. Evans employed the outside edge effectively while Robinson was all cool assurance. Evans had found the ball's middle, nothing Somerset tried — and it was a day on which nine bowlers were used — could shift them.

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ionship hundred of the season. Evans to his maiden century. It came just before Robinson declared and Nottinghamshire embarked on an early journey to Worcester.

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Half chances failed to go to hand once Robinson, during his five hour vigil, and Evans became entrenched. The removal of Newell to a sharp catch at short leg and Mallerender's thrust, just after lunch to remove Johnson and Randall in the same over gave Somerset hope.

Samaranch's stance has rival cities predicting a host of problems for the 1996 Olympics

Alarm over support for Athens

DAVID MILLER
CHIEF SPORTS
CORRESPONDENT

THE decision on which city will be elected to host the centenary Olympic Games of 1996, to be made in Tokyo next month, was one of many incidental topics during the Institution of International Sport's seminar this week at the University of Rhode Island. What is becoming increasingly evident among Olympic observers in recent months is that Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is, for whatever reason, expressing a firm, if unofficial, view in support of Athens.

This is causing some alarm among the committees of the other candidates, which include Atlanta, Belgrade, Manchester, Melbourne and Toronto. It has long been evident that all candidates except, perhaps, Belgrade, have as good and possibly better technical bids than Athens, whose strength — some say its only strength — is history, tradition and sentiment, on account of having been the original host of the

first modern Olympic Games, in 1896.

Indeed, Richard Pound, the Canadian IOC member from Montreal and an executive board member, who is closer to the pulse of the IOC than most, expressed the view here, in answer to questions following his opening address, that but for tradition, Athens would probably not be a viable candidate. It is Pound's strength, and occasionally his undoing, that he tends to speak the truth from which others shy away.

Whenever Samaranch takes a particular line, his record during ten years as president carries such an impressive combination of diplomacy and foresight that it is necessary to ask why, and with what possibly unseen objective, he has

decided upon a particular stance. In this instance, for example, it would seem ill-advised for him to show favouritism to a candidate which, if elected, might subsequently cause the IOC extensive headaches in international security, finance, transport and pollution, not to mention the proximity of the Middle East crisis.

On the one hand, by supporting Athens, Samaranch will be right either way. If Athens is successful in Tokyo, he would argue, if it fails, he will have been seen to have supported the sentimental choice. However, it is possible he is being more subtle. He knows there is an IOC element among the 90 or so members which objects to executive board or presidential influence, and is liable to go the other way. He could be supporting Athens because he considers this will turn a critical number of votes against the romantic candidate.

The IOC is approximately divided in half: the 50 members elected before Samaranch became

president in 1980, and the 40 elected since then. Support for Athens will come predominantly from the older members. Other candidate cities are therefore particularly concerned with the attitude among the "new" 40, and whether they are being "squeezed" by the president. Yet one of the more prominent members among the newer 40 recently told the chairman of a rival city bid: "Don't be too alarmed. We support the president only when he's right".

Concern with Athens's potential shortcomings is not confined to rival bids. At the early summer meeting of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) in Belgrade, at which bid presentations were somewhat presumptuously invited by Primo Nebiolo, the ASOIF president, five of the federations embarrassingly attacked Athens for inadequate facilities, including those for rowing, canoeing, volleyball and equestrianism.

Conscious that their accepted bid document is open to criticism, Athens has been issuing amendments — against the terms of the Charter — including bringing rowing and canoeing back to Athens from the originally proposed site at Salonic, over 100 miles distant.

One of the reasons why Samaranch may be championing Athens is that the Queen of Spain is the sister of King Constantine, the exiled Greek monarch, who is an honorary IOC life member. King Juan Carlos of Spain has been influential in helping to stabilise the troubled administration of Barcelona, host for the 1992 Olympic Games, and the quid pro quo, no doubt advocated by the Queen, would be for Samaranch, a Barcelona man, to support Athens.

The possibility of Athens losing the vote has already been discussed by the IOC executive board, including how it should stage a face-saving operation for the Greeks if that should happen. Anyone who considers the contest in Tokyo is a one-horse race, had better think again.

FOOTBALL

England manager leads tributes to Joe Mercer

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE football world has paid tribute to Joe Mercer, the former Manchester City manager and England caretaker manager, who died on Thursday, his 76th birthday.

One of only six men to have won League championship medals as both a player and manager, Mercer's career spanned almost 50 years. A wing half for Everton and Arsenal, he won five England caps before moving into management.

He took charge of Sheffield United, Aston Villa and Manchester City, where he won the League title in 1968 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1970. Four years later, following the dismissal of Sir Alf Ramsey, he became caretaker manager of England before Don Revie's appointment.

Graham Taylor, the England manager, led a chorus of admiration and affection. "Joe was a wonderful man and achieved the almost impossible by being popular with all sections of the game," Taylor said.

"It was always a pleasure to be in his company. Joe loved telling, and I enjoyed listening to, his fascinating football stories. He was a highly respected figure and an honourable man. I always found him very approachable."

"He was an inspirational player who excelled at first division and international level. His death is a loss to the sport and naturally our sympathies are very much with his family at this time."

John Bond, another former manager of Manchester City, now coaching at Shrewsbury, said: "He was a great friend of mine, a lovely man, who was respected by everyone and treated people with respect. Every time I met him was an enjoyable experience, he always had time for you and was never without a smile."

"I always remember when I

first arrived in Manchester to manage City, he told me where I could buy curtains for my house. In many ways Joe probably did not receive all the credit he deserved when he managed City. Malcolm Allison's coaching was important, but I do not think Malcolm could have achieved all he did without Joe."

"Joe had an easy-going manner, and did not mind people taking the mickey out of him, but while lots of people joked with him, underneath there was an underlying respect."

"His niceness meant that he did not like to put people down. He had perfect manners. But Joe did have a harder side. Ron Atkinson bore a grudge from the time he was a player at Aston Villa, and Joe the manager. Joe gave Ron a good transfer, and in later years Ron told him: 'I will never forgive you for giving me a free.' Joe replied: 'I wasn't wrong was I?'"

"Joe was probably just past his best as a manager when he got the England caretaker job, but he did a good job. He always tried to get his teams to play attractive football, he believed in playing the game the right way, he never lost his niceness and the game will not be the same without him."

Ron Greenwood, who played against Mercer and later managed England, said: "Joe was one of the game's characters, a great player, very successful manager and fine person. He was always a good companion and an excellent after-dinner speaker. I shall cherish the memory of playing against him, he deserved to manage England in his own right."

Laurie McMenemy, Taylor's assistant, said: "Joe always reminded us that the job could be done with a sense of humour. He was loved by manager, player, and public alike."

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Kenyans may help a confident athlete put Split selection controversy behind him

Yates banks on Monte Carlo break

From DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, BRUSSELS

MATTHEW Yates this weekend expects to achieve the European championship 800 metres qualifying time which would go some way towards justifying the British selectors' controversial decision to include him in the team for Split in preference to an athlete who has consistently run faster this season.

Yates, the Commonwealth bronze medal winner, has recovered from an injury which precipitated his withdrawal from the Panasonic AAA championships last weekend, and has two chances to secure the qualifying time of 1min 47.00sec which has eluded him in five races this summer.

The first is in Monte Carlo tomorrow, the second in Zurich three days later. In spite of a week's interruption to his training because of a thigh problem, Yates completed a session on Wednesday which he described as having gone "surprisingly well". Combined with the knowledge that two leading Kenyans, Lucas Sang and Nixon Kiprotich, are expected in Monte Carlo to enliven the pace, Yates is optimistic of coming off the provisional bookings list for Split.

"I don't want to run 1:46.99: I hope to run a lot faster," Yates said yesterday. "I am going there to win, because there is no point in doing it any other way."

"I have no negative thoughts. I ran five 200s in 24 seconds with only 45 seconds recovery on Wednesday. I thought they would be 27s (seconds). Now I am confident from that session that everything will be all right."

When Yates was named last Sunday, along with Tom McKean and David Sharpe,

for the 800 metres, it was surprising for two reasons: not only had he failed to achieve the qualifying mark, but his 1:50.00 metres time was inside the standard and, arguably, gave him claim for selection above Steve Cram.

Even Mike Yates, his father and coach, said the decision was "amazing".

The selectors were under the impression that a time of 1min 46.62sec attributed to Yates had been achieved within the qualifying period, but this was not the case. He had run it beforehand, in the Commonwealth Games. Steve Heard had beaten 1min 47sec on five occasions, but was named only a reserve.

Heard's coach, Trevor Rodwell, appealed for Yates's deselection because he had not achieved the qualifying standard by the date of selection. The appeal was rejected on Wednesday, the selectors believing that Yates would be able quickly to apply speed as a gloss finish to his strength base, which was evident from his time of 3min 35.15sec in the 1,500 metres at the Parcellforce games at Crystal Palace.

"I want to get this time on Sunday, so I can still run in the 1,500 metres in Zurich," Yates said. "Zurich is going to be one of the fastest races about, and I want to be involved."

While it will be useful to have Kiprotich and Sang in Monte Carlo — Kiprotich has run more than a second inside the time Yates needs in four grand prix meetings this season — the Briton must hope for a field of no more than ten athletes. Anything bigger and the odds of him becoming a victim of a shove, a trip or



Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter who was stripped of the Olympic gold medal and world record for 100 metres following a positive drug test in Seoul, is back on his blocks with his sights fixed on the 1992 Games in Barcelona after his national federation lifted a life ban on Thursday. He can compete from September 24.

boxing-in will be uncomfortable short.

While Yates, aged 21, has been picked on potential, Cram earned his 1,500 metres place, with Peter Elliott and Neil Horsfield, on service, though the selectors said they had taken training marks into consideration. The proof that he may be capable of securing a medal, if not winning a third successive European title, is eagerly awaited.

Despite earlier reports yesterday that Cram's scheduled appearance in Grosseto, Italy, on Monday, was unlikely, he has apparently decided to go. Cram, who has hardly raced this season, is under no pressure from selectors to prove his form, the British Amateur Athletic Board line being that Cram would not go to Split if he felt that he was not in medal condition. Tony Morrell stands by.

Cram withdrew from the AAA championships, having squeezed into the final suffering from gastroenteritis. Prior to that he called off his appearance in the Goodwill Games, following an Achilles tendon injury.

Calvin Smith, of the United States, a former holder of the 100 metres world record, will run in the Pearl Assurance international meeting at Gateshead next Friday.

Thomas is spoilt for choice in relay Haringey happy to cash in

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PLOVDIV, Bulgaria — Adrian Thomas, the British coach, has an enviable problem with his 4 x 400 metres relay selection at the world junior athletics championships here because he is spoilt for choice.

With the qualifying round tonight and the final tomorrow, Thomas has to choose between the 400-metre specialists, Mark Richardson, Duane Ladjeji, Adrian Patrick and David Grindley, the decathletes, David Bigham and James Stevenson and the 800-metre runners, Mark Sessay, Andrew Lill and Craig Wintrow. Thomas said they all want to run the relay.

"We don't know what the team will be," he said. "But the competition for the places will be very tight and they have to be very, very good."

Thomas said the British athletes are often at their best in the 4 x 400 metres relay. Thomas said that it was unusual to have so many good runners and that despite the competition within the squad, there was a superb spirit.

Their objective is simple enough. The boys want to take on the Americans," he said. "And they feel that they can win the gold. It's an attitude, not over-confidence. It's a simple, absolute belief."

RESULTS: Men 100m: 1. B. Ezrma (Nigeria), 10.17sec; 2. J. Livingston (GB), 10.22s; 3. A. Rogers (USA), 10.37; 4. J. John

(GB), 10.40; Pole vault: 1. J. Galfone (FR), 5.45m; 2. D. Kurkian (USSR), 5.40m; 3. M. Ducas (RUS), 5.40; Discus: 1. Ben Babb, 58.28m; 2. F. Biser (Cuba), 57.10; 3. J. Englemann (EG), 56.82; Decathlon: 1. E. Kaiser (GER), 7.72pts; 2. J. Freni (ITA), 7.68; 3. D. Bigham (GB), 7.48. Other British places: 10. J. A. Phipps (GB), 11.36sec; 2. N. Mitchell (Went), 11.47; 3. L. Warden (FR), 11.52; British places: equal 6. D. Smith, 11.70; 8. K. Mery, 11.71; Shot: 1. Guo Changping (China), 18.20m; 2. Li Xuequn (China), 17.74; 3. H. Hofer (GER), 17.27.

RALEIGH, North Carolina: The six-times Olympic champion, Carl Lewis, has pulled out of the Zurich grand prix meeting, denying himself a 100-metre rematch on Wednesday with his training partner, Leroy Burrell, who beat Lewis at the tape in the Goodwill Games (Reuters reports).

Lewis's coach, Tom Tellez, said that Lewis had not sufficiently recovered from a pulled hamstring incurred at the New York Games on July 29, but will run at least five more European meetings this summer.

"Carl's first meet will be in Cologne (on August 19), where he will run a relay," Tellez said. Tellez added that Lewis was training again after the left hamstring pull, but would not be at his best form in time to challenge Burrell at Zurich. He said the two might still clash in Europe, but was uncertain where.

While sponsored clubs take the honours, the likes of Sharnbury Barnet, Haringey's north London rivals, have to view their success philosophically. They have no sponsor and have never won the championship, but their manager, Keith Moyses, has few regrets.

"Division one has been the strongest it has ever been this season, but sponsorship has been the difference between the clubs," Moyses said. "We suffer from lack of finance but we do have a strong women's section and a development scheme for youngsters. Not all of the sponsored clubs can claim that."

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HARINGEY, the winners of the first three matches, seem certain to lift the British Athletics League championship trophy after the final fixture today at Newham. It would be their fourth championship in seven years.

Among those celebrating would be the club's sponsor, Eastern Electricity, which injected £100,000 over three years into Haringey at the start of the season. Plans are already under way to finance the club's trip to the European Clubs' Trophy competition next season.

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By CONRAD VOSS BARK

FISHERY scientists in Scotland and Ireland are concentrating on sea-going research to try to find out the cause of the dramatic decline of sea trout stocks.

At one of the famous fisheries in the west of Ireland, anglers caught 2,000 sea trout in 1986, 1,500 in 1987, 850 in 1988 and last year only 20. Some of the fish which came in last year were emaciated and covered with sea lice.

By common consent, from Mayo to Galway, a policy of catch and release has been agreed this year on all sea trout rivers. Those fish which have so far been caught this year have been much healthier than last, but it is difficult to draw firm conclusions from this.

Dr K. F. Whelan, the director of the Salmon Research Agency of Ireland, says scientists have caught sea trout at sea have found them starved, with nothing in their stomachs, after having left the river three or four weeks earlier.

There is no lack of appropriate food at sea. All the marine organisms on which a trout feeds are available to them," he said.

One curious fact has emerged. There are large numbers of juvenile sea lice on these fish, sometimes as many as 80 on one fish. This does not necessarily mean that sea lice have actually caused the trouble as they will attack fish which are already weakened by some other cause.

Even so, scientists are concentrating on analysing the sea lice to see if there is anything new and strange about them which might be affecting fish.

Some fishery managers believe the establishment of salmon farming in sea cages off the west coast of Ireland may have some connection with the unprecedented growth in the numbers of one particular sea louse, which has been found on sea trout but not on any sea fish that have been examined.

Roxburgh pins his faith on youth

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ANDY Roxburgh, the Scotland coach, yesterday put the emphasis on youth when he named his squad for the forthcoming match against the Scottish Football League select side.

The 16-strong squad, which has an average age of 23, contains the nucleus of players who Roxburgh hopes will carry Scotland's hopes into the European championship and the next World Cup. "These are the sort of people who we will be looking to in the next few years. Their chance is there, and this will become their time, we hope," Roxburgh said.

With others staking their own claims, it seems that time has run out for Maurice Johnston, the Rangers forward, who said after the World Cup in Italy that he no longer wished to represent his country. His omission is evidence that a meeting with Graeme Souness, the Rangers manager, did little to change his mind.

The light to wear Johnston's discarded jersey will be contested by Robert Fleck, Norwich City, and Gordon Durie, of Chelsea, although others such as John Robertson, of Heart of Midlothian, who will

play for the League select side, will also have a say.

The match, to celebrate the centenary of the Scottish Football League, takes place at Hampden Park next Saturday. "We will play a game and a normal match," Roxburgh said. "This group has it all in front of them. However, this game won't break any of them, but it might make some."

"We have to look at the next World Cup. Our players are world-like to produce an exciting, entertaining team which even we would look forward to watching."

The Scottish support deserve an exciting team, and this squad have advanced a strong case.

The Scotland management team has the advantage of a sound knowledge of the young players. For one of them, Pat Nevin, of Everton, the chance is there to resurrect his international career. "We have to look at the next World Cup. Our players are world-like to produce an exciting, entertaining team which even we would look forward to watching."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds impressed by their Kenyan recruit

By KEITH MACKLIN

THE Kenyan winger who scored three spectacular tries in the Wigan seven-a-side tournament was yesterday signed by Leeds in the face of competition from St Helens and Widnes.

At a press conference he was introduced as Eddie Rombo, aged 22, a Kenyan rugby union international who was the leading try-scorer during the All Africa Games in 1987.

He captained the university of Nairobi in 1989 and has represented a Kenya XV in matches against Bedford, Pontypool and Stewart's Melville F.C. He toured Singapore and played in the Singapore cricket club sevens as a member of Watanabe's Panthers, winning the player of the tournament trophy.

He first came to the attention of Leeds when a Kenyan agent, Charles Ouko, wrote to several

English clubs offering to bring to England a player who, in his opinion, would become the No. 1 wing in the world.

Ouko wrote: "Once you have seen him in training you will fall over yourselves to sign him on professional terms."

Leeds followed up quickly and his speedy performances in pre-season convinced them that they should snap him up before other clubs moved in.

Teams from Gateshead, Nottingham, Leicester, Nene Valley, Essex, Cheltenham, Bristol, Swindon and Bath are all taking part in today's international Chester sevens at West Cheshire College. The Chester event is in its eighth year and maintains a tradition by admitting only those teams which are situated in rugby league development areas.

Triathlon chances are hit by injury

From IAN SWEET IN TRIER, WEST GERMANY

THE prospects of the British team competing in the European long course triathlon championship here today have been diminished by the late withdrawal of Sarah Coope, the European champion over the distance.

Coope has a recurrence of an elbow injury, which may need surgery, but is undergoing intense physiotherapy and hopes to be able to compete in the world championship over the Olympic distance in Florida in mid-September.

The top British male triathlete, Glenn Cook, is also absent. He feels that four important races in six weeks have spoilt his chances of equaling or bettering the silver medal he won at last year's world championship.

Both the British male and female teams still include pos-

sible medal contenders. Richard Hobson, who won the British championship over the half-ironman distance two weeks ago, is looking to go one better by winning his first European crown.

His main opposition is likely to come from the strong Dutch contingent, which includes the defending champion, Rob Barel. Andy Widgery, the British team manager, is looking forward to the event and believes his teams could pick up some medals.

With Coope absent, the women's race should be between Thea Sysma, from the Netherlands, and two triathletes from the host nation, Simone Mortier, last year's champion over the shorter distance, and Mandy Dean, Dr Sarah Springman, one of the leading British triathletes, is out to recapture a title she last won in 1985.

Tyneside farewell for the flying Kiwi

SPORT ON
TELEVISION
THE WEEK
IN VIEW

THERE won't be a dry eye in the house when that familiar figure in a black vest steps onto the track for his last race in this country on Friday evening. Gateshead folk know their athletes and can recognise a hero when they see one. So John Walker, "the Kiwi who can fly", can expect a farewell that will not be quickly forgotten.

Walker, now 38, ranks alongside the finest of the world's great middle distance men — Wooderson, Bannister, Bayi, Coc. For the better part of two decades he has raced against the best and at times he has been the best. He was the first man to a century of sub-four minute miles and he has now run an incredible 127 of them, converting his 1,500-metre time and you double that figure. He has highlights that can never be erased and of which he is immensely proud.

In 1975 he set a world record for the mile (3min 49.4sec) in Gothenburg. It was the first time a man had dipped below 3min 50sec. The 1,400 metres is not a classic distance, but Walker talks with pride of his 4min 51.52sec world best in Oslo in 1971. And of course he stood on

KEN LAWRENCE'S guide to the best in televised sport in the week ahead

the Montreal rostrum in 1976 to receive the Olympic gold medal for his 1,500 metres victory, although privately he probably still regrets the African boycott that robbed the race of his great rival, the Tanzanian, Filbert Bayi.

He has run in the Emsley Carr Mile only once — in 1987, when it was last staged at Gateshead — and he won it on that occasion. There could be no finer send-off than for him to win it again, in a sub-four minute time, of course, before, as knowledgeable athletics crowd as there is in this country, and with ITV cameras also there, a nationwide television audience.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

TODAY: If you are a football supporter, LWT (2.35) has the Makita International from Wembley, but if Faldo is in contention do not miss the United States PGA golf championship (BSB live, 7-midnight). Screensport delayed coverage from 7.30. BBC highlights at 11.40.

TOMORROW: Apart from BBC highlights (11.25 tonight), Saturday's golf coverage from Shoal Creek is duplicated. Eurosport have 9½ hours of live coverage from the Formula One race in Hungary, the Swedish motorcycle grand prix, water polo, swimming and Czech tennis (from noon).

WEDNESDAY: A quiet night. Screensport have world championship basketball live from Argentina (8pm).

TUESDAY: The finish of the second Test match at Old Trafford: BBC2 will show every ball (from 10.50am).

WEDNESDAY: The new sprinting find, Leroy Burrell, may show Carl Lewis and Linnard Christie a clean pair of heels: Zurich athletics (BBC1 8pm; BBC 8.30pm).

THURSDAY: The intolerable G-force stress to which racing drivers are subject is the major issue on *On the Line* analyses (BBC2 8.25).

FRIDAY: Join the great goodbye to John Walker in the Emsley Carr Mile at Gateshead (LWT at 8, Channel 4 from 8.55).

Maximilian can add Haydock Barnbrook Again out for season group prize to overseas gains

By MANDARIN

MAXIMILIAN can add the group three Burtonwood Brewery Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock this afternoon to his success in the same grade at Cologne last month.

The three-year-old's career sums up internationalism in racing today. Before his win in Germany, he had previously contested a race at Maisons-Laffitte, although rather less successfully. On that occasion he was 10½ lengths fourth to Septime Ciel.

That defeat, his only reverse in four starts, was not as comprehensive as it looks. Septime Ciel is a high-class performer who holds clear prospects in tomorrow's Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville; and Maximilian, previously covered up in his

traces, may have seen too much daylight.

Although this is Maximilian's first race beyond a mile, his trainer, John Gosden, is an astute judge and clearly feels his colt is capable of making the step up in distance.

However, Maximilian will not have matters all his own way in a competitive race. Eradicate is unbeaten this year, including an impressive win in the Magnet Cup at York, but contests group company for the first time, while Starstreak, a fine second to Karinga Bay at Goodwood last time, may be better over 1½ miles.

But I suggest Defensive Play poses the greatest threat. He was behind Starstreak at Goodwood but that was after a lengthy lay-off, and Pat Eddery did not give him a

hard time when his chance had gone.

Goodwood form is also the first point of reference for the meeting's two other televised races. The six-furlong Stewards' Cup could be the key to the Coral Bookmakers Handicap, in which Cumbrin Walthers is napped. He ran a creditable race from an unfavourable draw to finish just under four lengths seventh to Knight of Mercy. He is racing off a lower mark in the handicap than at Goodwood.

In the Mail On Sunday Handicap, based on The Rail's second to the strongly fancied Batushka at the Sussex track indicated his return to the winner's enclosure will be not long delayed.

The most valuable race at Newmarket is the Brierley

New Zealand Handicap, in which Down The Flag is taken to have the edge on his elders, Black Monday and Bold Fox.

Ben Hanbury's charge ran an excellent second to the subsequent Irish Derby runner-up Deploy at Leicester in June, but was unhappy on soft ground when unplaced at Haydock next time. Returning to his preferred surface, he can underline the value of that Leicester form.

The Fay Richwhite Sweet Solera Stakes is a fascinating contest with only Jamelety having tasted defeat. Much will depend on how much the less exposed runners have improved from their races, but I will side with Dance Ahead, who created a favourable impression when quickening well to beat Over by five lengths here.

DAVID Elsworth's champion two-mile chaser Barnbrook Again is almost certain to miss the new National Hunt season.

Elsworth said in a short statement yesterday: "He has sustained an injury which means it is likely he will miss the forthcoming season. A final decision will be made later this month."

The trainer refused to elaborate further on the details of the injury, adding: "I just don't want people to risk any money on the horse for the Gold Cup."

The nine-year-old Barnbrook Again has won the last two runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase at the Cheltenham festival.

He also finished a good second to his stable companion Desert Orchid in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park last season. He reportedly suffered a heart murmur when falling on the same track on his seasonal reappearance.

REDCAR

Selections

By Mandarin

2.0 Jagiel, 2.30 She's Smart, 3.0 Regent Lad, 3.30 Cum Laude, 4.0 Sinclair Boy, 4.30 Sawaki, 5.0 Futuh.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Carlfield Lad, 3.0 Gabbadini, 3.30 Curti Laude, 4.30 Mute Swan, 5.0 Futuh.

Going: firm (watered)

Draw: 5f-1m, high numbers best

2.0 STANTONDALE SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,427: 1m 10f) (9 runners)

1-088 CARLETON 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-084 JAGIEL 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-084 LITTLE SPARKS 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-084 MYSTIC 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-084 DORIS 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
6-084 EASTON 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
7-084 EXPRESS 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
8-084 ONE FOR RENE 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
9-084 EXPRESS 10 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

2.30 PAUL DANIELS MAGIC NURSERY HANDICAP (2-Y-O: £2,535: 5f) (6)

1-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
6-0111 KNOCKDOWN 7 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

3.0 BATTLE OF BRITAIN HANDICAP (£2,590: 1m)

1-484 PARLIAMENT 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-484 REGENT LAD 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-484 ROYALTY 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-484 GEM 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-484 GEM 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
6-484 GEM 11 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

3.30 BONUSPRINTER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,388: 1m 2f) (5)

1-214 CUM LAUDE 20 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-214 CUM LAUDE 20 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-214 CUM LAUDE 20 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-214 CUM LAUDE 20 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-214 CUM LAUDE 20 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

4.0 DANNEMAN, 6.15 Wanda's Dream, 6.45 Bundle of Luck, 7.15 Emtyaz, 7.45 Class Act, 8.15 Annabelle Royale.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

5.45 Bellefontaine, 6.15 Truth Endures, 6.45 Swagman, 7.15 Emtyaz, 7.45 Cosmic Dancer.

Going: firm

Draw: high numbers best up to 7f 140yd

5.45 CHARTERHOUSE STAKES (2-Y-O: £3,080: 6f) (6 runners)

1-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
6-312 BELLEFONTAINE 5 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

6.15 PULBROOK MAIDEN FILLES GUARANTEED SWEETSTAKES (2-Y-O: £2,060: 5f) (6)

1-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
2-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
3-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
4-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
5-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7
6-54 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

11-4 Wanda's Dream, 4.1 Lindfield Belle, 6.1 Orbe Gold, 13-2 Truth Endures, 10.1 Tropical Orchid, 12.1 Pearly.

6.15 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

6.15 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

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6.15 LINDFIELD BELLE 12 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

SELECTIONS

By Mandarin

2.15 Skerryvore, 2.45 Lark Forenoon, 3.15 D'Alagnan, 3.45 Dance Ahead, 4.20 Down The Flag, 4.50 A Valoque, 5.20 Aromatic.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Skerryvore, 2.45 Lark Forenoon, 3.15 D'Alagnan, 3.45 Dance Ahead, 4.20 Down The Flag, 4.50 A Valoque, 5.20 Aromatic.

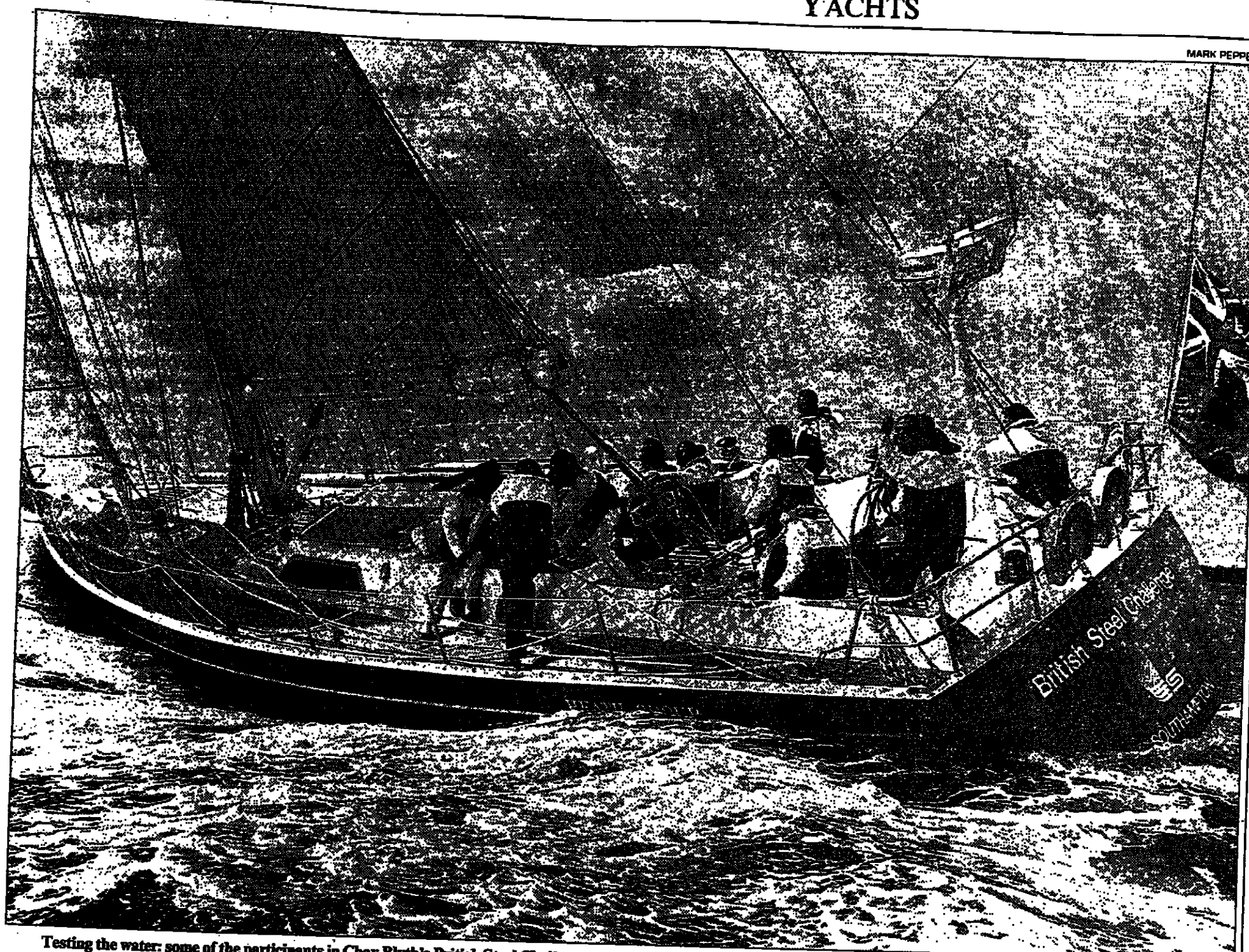
By Michael Seely

3.45 Dance Ahead, 4.20 Down The Flag.

Guide to our in-line racecard

108 (12) 0-0022 DOW TIME 74 (J) M. J. Barry 9-7

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Skerryvore (F) - 1st, P - 2nd, U - 3rd, D - 4th, O - 5th, G - 6th, B - 7th, N - 8th, L - 9th, S - 10th, H - 11th, M - 12th, J - 13th, K - 14th, Q - 15th, R - 16th, T - 17th, V - 18th, W - 19th, X - 20th, Y - 21st, Z - 22nd, AA - 23rd, AB - 24th, AC - 25th, AD - 26th, AE - 27th, AF - 28th, AG - 29th, AH - 30th, AI - 31st, AJ - 32nd, AK - 33rd, AL - 34th, AM - 35th, AN - 36th, AO - 37th, AP - 38th, AQ - 39th, AR - 40th, AS - 41st, AT - 42nd, AU - 43rd, AV - 44th, AW - 45th, AX - 46th, AY - 47th, AZ - 48th, BA - 49th, BB - 50th, BC - 51st, BD - 52nd, BE - 53rd, BF - 54th, BG - 55th, BH - 56th, BI - 57th, BJ - 58th, BK - 59th, BL - 60th, BM - 61st, BN - 62nd, BO - 63rd, BP - 64th, BQ - 65th, BR - 66th, BS - 67th, BT - 68th, BU - 69th, BV - 70th, BW - 71st, BX - 72nd, BY - 73rd, BZ - 74th, CA - 75th, CB - 76th, CC - 77th, CD - 78th, CE - 79th, CF - 80th, CG - 81st, CH - 82nd, CI - 83rd, CJ - 84th, CK - 85th, CL - 86th, CM - 87th, CN - 88th, CO - 89th, CP - 90th, CQ - 91st, CR - 92nd, CS - 93rd, CT - 94th, CU - 95th, CV - 96th, CW - 97th, CX - 98th, CY - 99th, CZ - 100th, DA - 101st, DB - 102nd, DC - 103rd, DD - 104th, DE - 105th, DF - 106th, DG - 107th, DH - 108th, DI - 109th, DJ - 110th, DK - 111th, DL - 112th, DM - 113th, DN - 114th, DO - 115th, DP - 116th, DQ - 117th, DR - 118th, DS - 119th, DT - 120th, DU - 121st, DV - 122nd, DW - 123rd, DX - 124th, DY - 125th, DZ - 126th, EA - 127th, EB - 128th, EC - 129th, ED - 130th, EE - 131st, EF - 132nd, EG - 133rd, EH - 134th, EI - 135th, EJ - 136th, EK - 137th, EL - 138th, EM - 139th, EN - 140th, EO - 141st, EP - 142nd, EQ - 143rd, ER - 144th, ES - 145th, ET - 146th, EU - 147th, EV - 148th, EW - 149th, EX - 150th, EY - 151st, EZ - 152nd, FA - 153rd, FB - 154th, FC - 155th, FD - 156th, FE - 157th, FF - 158th, FG - 159th, FH - 160th, FI - 161st, FJ - 162nd, FK - 163rd, FL - 164th, FM - 165th, FN - 166th, FO - 167th, FP - 168th, FQ - 169th, FR - 170th, FS - 171st, FT - 172nd, FU - 173rd, FV - 174th, FW - 175th, FX - 176th, FY - 177th, FZ - 178th, GA - 179th, GB - 180th, GC - 181st, GD - 182nd, GE - 183rd, GF - 184th, GH - 185th, GI - 186th, GJ - 187th, GK - 188th, GL - 189th, GM - 190th, GN - 191st, GO - 192nd, GP - 193rd, GQ - 194th, GR - 195th, GS - 196th, GT - 197th, GU - 198th, GV - 199th, GW - 200th, GX - 201st, GY - 202nd, GZ - 203rd, HA - 204th, HB - 205th, HC - 206th, HD - 207th, HE - 208th, HF - 209th, HG - 210th, HH - 211th, HI - 212th, HJ - 213th, HK - 214th, HL - 215th, HM - 216th, HN - 217th, HO - 218th, HP - 219th, HQ - 220th, HR - 221st, HS - 222nd, HT - 223rd, HU - 224th, HV - 225th, HW - 226th, HX - 227th, HY - 228th, HZ - 229th, IA - 230th, IB - 231st, IC - 232nd, ID - 233rd, IE - 234th, IF - 235th, IG - 236th, IH - 237th, II - 238th, IJ - 239th, IK - 240th, IL - 241st, IM - 242nd, IN - 243rd, IO - 244th, IP - 245th, IQ - 246th, IR - 247th, IS - 248th, IT - 249th, IU - 250th, IV - 251st, IW - 252nd, IX - 253rd, IY - 254th, IZ - 255th, JA - 256th, JB - 257th, JC - 258th, JD - 259th, JE - 260th, JF - 261st, JG - 262nd, JH - 263rd, JI - 264th, JJ - 265th, JK - 266th, JL - 267th, JM - 268th, JN - 269th, JO - 270th, JP - 271st, JQ - 272nd, JR - 273rd, JS - 274th, JT - 275th, JU - 276th, JV - 277th, JW - 278th, JX - 279th, JY - 280th, JZ - 281st, KA - 282nd, KB - 283rd, KC - 284th, KD - 285th, KE - 286th, KF - 287th, KG - 288th, KH - 289th, KI - 290th, KJ - 291st, KK - 292nd, KL - 293rd, KM - 294th, KN - 295th, KO - 296th, KP - 297th, KQ - 298th, KR - 299th, KS - 300th, KT - 301st, KU - 302nd, KV - 303rd, KW - 304th, KX - 305th, KY - 306th, KZ - 307th, LA - 308th, LB - 309th, LC - 310th, LD - 311st, LE - 312nd, LF - 313th, LG - 314th, LH - 315th, LI - 316th, LJ - 317th, LK - 318th, LL - 319th, LM - 320th, LN - 321st, LO - 322nd, LP - 323rd, LQ - 324th, LR - 325th, LS - 326th, LT - 327th, LU - 328th, LV - 329th, LW - 330th, LX - 331st, LY - 332nd, LZ - 333rd, MA - 334th, MB - 335th, MC - 336th, MD - 337th, ME - 338th, MF - 339th, MG - 340th, MH - 341st, MI - 342nd, MJ - 343rd, MK - 344th, ML - 345th, MN - 346th, MO - 347th, MP - 348th, MQ - 349th, MR - 350th, MS - 351st, MT - 352nd, MU - 353rd, MV - 354th, MW - 355th, MX - 356th, MY - 357th, MZ - 358th, NA - 359th, NB - 360th, NC - 361st, ND - 362nd, NE - 363rd, NF - 364th, NG - 365th, NH - 366th, NI - 367th, NJ - 368th, NK - 369th, NL - 370th, NM - 371st, NO - 372nd, NP - 373rd, NQ - 374th, NR - 375th, NS - 376th, NT - 377th, NU - 378th, NV - 379th, NW - 380th, NX - 381st, NY - 382nd, NZ - 383rd, OA - 384th, OB - 385th, OC - 386th, OD - 387th, OE - 388th, OF - 389th, OG - 390th, OH - 391st, OI - 392nd, OJ - 393rd, OK - 394th, OL - 395th, OM - 396th, ON - 397th, OO - 398th, OP - 399th, OQ - 400th, OR - 401st, OS - 402nd, OT - 403rd, OU - 404th, OV - 405th, OW - 406th, OX - 407th, OY - 408th, OZ - 409th, PA - 410th, PB - 411st, PC - 412nd, PD - 413th, PE - 414th, PF - 415th, PG - 416th, PH - 417th, PI - 418th, PJ - 419th, PK - 420th, PL - 421st, PM - 422nd, PN - 423rd, PO - 424th, PP - 425th, PQ - 426th, PR - 427th, PS - 428th, PT - 429th, PU - 430th, PV - 431st, PW - 432nd, PX - 433rd, PY - 434th, PZ - 435th, QA - 436th, QB - 437th, QC - 438th, QD - 439th, QE - 440th, QF - 441st, QG - 442nd, QH - 443rd, QI - 444th, QJ - 445th, QK - 446th, QL - 447th, QM - 448th, QN - 449th, QO - 450th, QP - 451st, QQ - 452nd, QR - 453rd, QS - 454th, QT - 455th, QU - 456th, QV - 457th, QW - 458th, QX - 459th, QY - 460th, QZ - 461st, RA - 462nd, RB - 463rd, RC - 464th, RD - 465th, RE - 466th, RF - 467th, RG - 468th, RH - 469th, RI - 470th, RJ - 471st, RK - 472nd, RL - 473rd, RM - 474th, RN - 475th, RO - 476th, RP - 477th, RQ - 478th, RR - 479th, RS - 480th, RT - 481st, RU - 482nd, RV - 483rd, RW - 484th, RX - 485th, RY - 486th, RZ - 487th, SA - 488th, SB - 489th, SC - 490th, SD - 491st, SE - 492nd, SF - 493rd, SG - 494th, SH - 495th, SI - 496th, SJ - 497th, SK - 498th, SL - 499th, SM - 500th, SN - 501st, SO - 502nd, SP - 503rd, SQ - 504th, SR - 505th, SS - 506th, ST - 507th, SU - 508th, SV - 509th, SW - 510th, SX - 511st, SY - 512nd, SZ - 513th, TA - 514th, TB - 515th, TC - 516th, TD - 517th, TE - 518th, TF - 519th, TG - 520th, TH - 521st, TI - 522nd, TJ - 523rd, TK - 524th, TL - 525th, TM - 526th, TN - 527th, TO - 528th, TP - 529th, TQ - 530th, TR - 531st, TS - 532nd, TU - 533rd, TV - 534th, TW - 535th, TX - 536th, TY - 537th, TZ - 538th, UA - 539th, UB - 540th, UC - 541st, UD - 542nd, UE - 543rd, UF - 544th, UG - 545th, UH - 546th, UI - 547th, UJ - 548th, UK - 549th, UL - 550th, UM - 551st, UN - 552nd, UO - 553rd, UP - 554th, UQ - 555th, UR - 556th, US - 557th, UT - 558th, UU - 559th, UV - 560th, UW - 561st, UX - 562nd, UY - 563rd, UZ - 564th, VA - 565th, VB - 566th, VC - 567th, VD - 568th, VE - 569th, VF - 570th, VG - 571st, VH - 572nd, VI - 573rd, VJ - 574th, VK - 575th, VL - 576th, VM - 577th, VN - 578th, VO - 579th, VP - 580th, VQ - 581st, VR - 582nd, VS - 583rd, VT - 584th, VU - 585th, VV - 586th, VW - 587th, VX - 588th, VY - 589th, VZ - 590th, WA - 591st, WB - 592nd, WC - 593rd, WD - 594th, WE - 595th, WF - 596th, WG - 597th, WH - 598th, WI - 599th, WJ - 600th, WK - 601st, WL - 602nd, WM - 603rd, WN - 604th, WO - 605th, WP - 606th, WQ - 607th, WR - 608th, WS - 609th, WT - 610th, WU - 611st, WV - 612nd, WX - 613th, WY - 614th, WZ - 615th, XA - 616th, XB - 617th, XC - 618th, XD - 619th, XE - 620th, XF - 621st, XG - 622nd, XH - 623rd, XI - 624th, XJ - 625th, XK - 626th, XL - 627th, XM - 628th, XN - 629th, XO - 630th, XP - 631st, XQ - 632nd, XR - 633rd, XS - 634th, XT - 635th, XU - 636th, XV - 637th, XW - 638th, XY - 639th, XZ



Testing the water: some of the participants in Chay Blyth's British Steel Challenge sail in the namesake yacht, the first of the fleet, for a foretaste of the big race starting in 1992

A taste of Chay's Challenge

Selecting crew for the British Steel round-the-world race has begun, but most of them, as Barry Pickthall found, are sailing novices

Most people would give their eyeteeth to trade job and mortgage repayments for the chance to sail around the world. When Chay Blyth advertised the opportunity last year, more than 500 applied to compete in his British Steel Challenge, happy to part with £15,000 for one of 120 berths on board ten identical 67ft yachts being built for a race around the globe that starts from Southampton in two years' time.

The applicants ranged from the president of an American linen company, to students, City bankers, undertakers, stockbrokers, engineers, sales representatives and estate agents. Last week, some were given their first taste of what to expect from racing 27,000 miles against the winds and currents.

"Everyone was very happy when we left Plymouth Sound, but there were some green faces once we had turned into head winds and a bouncy sea to come up to Southampton," said John Bullock, Mr Blyth's jovial training skipper, whose task it is to whip the 120 final recruits into shape.

Every one of them has been interviewed at length by Mr Blyth as part of a careful vetting and selection programme, but if any should fall by the wayside, another 174 are itching to take their place in the race.

The Challenge is certainly no picnic. The course follows in the wake of Mr Blyth's record-setting solo voyage around the world 19 years ago aboard the 59ft cutter, British Steel. He completed the

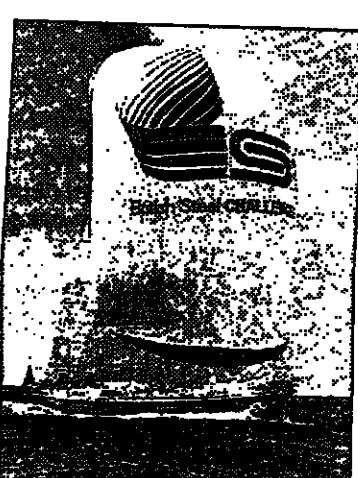
voyage non-stop, west-about Cape Horn, in 292 days. The British Steel fleet is expected to take eight months, but will stop en route at Rio de Janeiro, Hobart, Tasmania and Mauritius before returning to Southampton in the spring of 1993.

The average age of the selected group, which includes 30 women, is 32, and, surprisingly perhaps, the one thing they nearly all have in common is a total lack of sailing experience.

"Sailing experience was not a priority during selection, and nor was the money," Mr Blyth said during sea trials off Cowes this week. "What I was looking for were high achievers with the dedication to follow this challenge through."

The former Paras sergeant has put together a comprehensive two-year sailing assault course that every recruit must endure.

"Sailing is not difficult. I had very little experience when I first sailed around the world," said Mr Blyth this week. He has done three circumnavigations and 14 crossings of the Atlantic. "We have put together a structured and cohesive programme to teach everyone in the team sailing and technical skills that will turn them into accomplished sailors. By the time they reach Rio, they will have just as much experience as most crews who competed in last winter's Whitbread Round the World race."



Full sail: out in the Channel

The training includes a week-long initiation this autumn aboard the first yacht, named British Steel Challenge two months ago at Devonport by the Princess Royal, to hammer home basic safety and crew routines.

In October, the group will undergo a racing course aboard a fleet of 16 Sigma 33 cruiser-racers, yachts half the size of the David Thomas-designed cutters they will be racing around the world.

The winter months will be spent taking the crews out into the north Atlantic to give them a taste of the conditions they can expect to encounter rounding Cape Horn

against the prevailing winds, before competing as a fleet in a special race around the Fastnet Rock and the 1,100-mile Brent Walker race to Spain in 1992.

"This will be no cruise in company. By the time the race starts, every crew will be wanting to become a winner," Mr Blyth says. "This race will be just as competitive as the Whitbread race, and with the boats all equal, it will be much closer."

Michael Kay, a 47-year-old sales consultant from Blandford Forum, Dorset, is under no illusions. "I am a firm believer in fate, and this race could change my life completely," he said during an initiation sail aboard the first blue British Steel Challenge yacht now based at Ocean Village, Southampton.

He first saw the race when it was featured during a television news programme and he was encouraged by his wife to find out more. "She thinks it will solve my mid-life crisis," he said.

Mr Kay, who is chairman of his local Round Table and a county councillor, made it to the top of the tree in the computer world before changing careers to teach others the art of sailing.

When he returns from the race, Mr Kay, whose sailing experience has been limited to a few weekend jaunts around Poole harbour and a delivery trip from Dartmouth aboard a friend's yacht, expects to

take up yet another career.

Ramin Dilmanghian, a 23-year-old Iranian civil engineer from St John's Wood, London, sees it all as a great adventure. Between studying for a Master's degree in steel structures, he, like many other students who have taken up the challenge, is searching madly for sponsorship to pay for it all.

The £15,000 cost is payable over a three-year period, but surprisingly only four of the initial 120 recruits have failed to come up with the £3,000 due so far.

"Friends think I am mad and highlighted all sorts of obstacles, but if I listened to them I would achieve nothing in life," he said.

Murray Findley has no such money worries. The 60-year-old American, who is the oldest recruit out of the 120, has made it big in the linen business in Las Vegas and sees the challenge as one of the most exciting in his life. He said: "I have no sailing experience, but read an article about the race in *The Times* when I was visiting London and enrolled right away."

The one crumb of comfort is the design of the yachts they will sail. Fully fitted below with three-berth cabins and twin toilet compartments that have hot showers, they are a far cry from the stripped-out utilitarian machines in the last Whitbread race, in which crews lived stooped under 4ft 6in of headroom and personal privacy was limited to an ill-fitting curtain around the lavatories. But then, racing against the prevailing conditions for eight months deserves any bit of comfort they can find.

Into battle against poll tax proposals

THE Royal Yachting Association has come out fighting against proposals by the British Ports Federation for a poll tax on all pleasure craft to pay for the upkeep of navigation lights. Launching a paper of its own this week, the RYA attacks the federation for failing to comply with the ministerial guidelines, numerous factual inaccuracies and bogus claims of support for its plans from the chief coastguard, Customs and the police.

The RYA claims the federation's report ignores the minister's statement that he "would not wish to introduce a scheme which involves the compulsory registration of pleasure craft" and his requirement that collection expenses and yield should be properly costed. The RYA suggests the £100 proposed fee on all yachts will be insufficient to cover the administration. One inflated claim picked up by the RYA in the report was that "Sidmouth reported nearly 1,000 foreign visiting yachts in one week". The RYA rightly questions how a seaside town without a harbour could possibly receive a visiting yacht every 10 minutes for a week. The RYA's answer: the funds should be met from general taxation.

Computer keeps the course

COMPUTERS can now take the drudgery out of plotting positions and courses on standard charts. The Navigator's Yeoman (right) harnesses digitised map and computer mouse technology to replace parallel rules and dividers in providing instant positions, bearings and distances to waypoints or navigation marks. This British-developed tool converts your paper charts into an electronic navigation system. The computer can also programme the autopilot for the correct course. The cost is £456, plus VAT.

Further details: Navstar, Royal Oak Way, Davenry, Northamptonshire (0327 79066).



Arriving... by computer

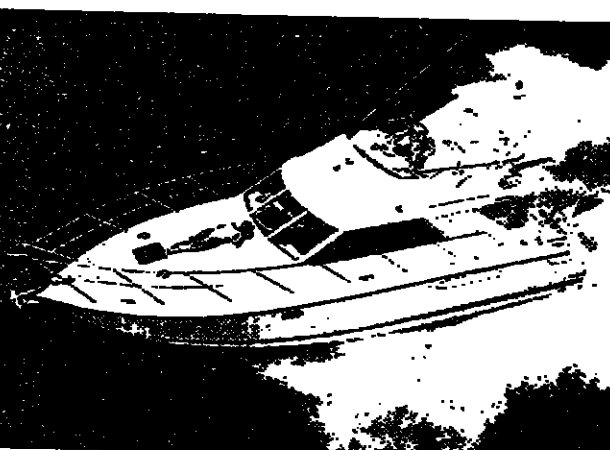
Weather goes on screen

FED UP with the reams of paper spewed out on the yacht's weatherfax? PC Maritime has the answer with a new software programme that turns any IBM-compatible personal computer into a screen receiver for live facsimile weather charts and satellite pictures.

The National Weather Centre at Bracknell, Berkshire, broadcasts 30 weather bulletins every day, ranging from 24-hour weather charts to sea state prognosis, and all these broadcasts can be displayed on the personal computer screen or they can be printed out.

What is more, the software has the ability to turn the computer on automatically to record the weather broadcast, leaving the navigator to get a good night's sleep. The programme comes complete with an explanatory cassette tape and is priced at £99.95 inc VAT.

Further details: PC Maritime, Somerset Place, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon PL3 4BB (0752 550314).



Dream lease: the four-berth Fairline 35 Corsica

Now you can lease a boat

COMPANY directors often lease cars and equipment. Now they can lease a boat. Peters & Partners and Regent Leasing have launched a marine leasing scheme providing users with significant tax advantages. First, large amounts of capital are unnecessary. Fixed payments are spread over five years and 95 per cent of the proceeds are returned to the customer at the end of the period or when trading up to a new boat. Brian Peters, who heads the largest distributor of Fairline powerboats (as above), selling many of them to company men, says lessees can claim 100 per cent of the rental payments as an operating cost as well as the VAT. He claims the tax advantage over outright purchase is double.

Further details: Peters plc, Port Fairline, Chichester Marina, West Sussex PO20 7EN (0243 511381).

Bottle sailor nearly there

TOM McCLEAN, with 700 miles left of his transatlantic crossing in a bottle-boat, expects to finish next Thursday or Friday. He says he is getting only three hours' sleep a day.

Adam Appleton has made exact replicas of the great racing yachts, and 15 of the old Britannia

Adam Appleton's model yachts cost about £33,000 each, which sounds a lot for a toy boat. Mr Appleton, however, is not in the business of making toys. He creates exact replicas of the great racing yachts of the early part of the century, and describes them as "three-dimensional works of art".

Self-taught and with only an A level in art as a qualification, 29-year-old Mr Appleton's stock in trade is the royal yacht Britannia, originally built in 1892 and finally scuttled in 1936. So far he has made 15 of them in ten years, each model taking between two and six months.

In Britain, a Britannia will cost about £2,000 at auction. "If I pay myself less than I would a bricklayer then I would just about cover my costs," Mr Appleton says. "The real money is to be made in America. Some people have more money than they know what to do with, so if I can sell there I can make a reasonable living."

Mr Appleton, who lives in Cowes, the home of sailing, came to model-making by chance. A sixth birthday present of a broken-down model of the Britannia bought in a house sale set him on his way. "It was only a mast and a hull," he says. "Then my uncle, who was a master mariner, re-rigged it for my tenth birthday and it became a family heirloom."

Years later, living in cheap but not particularly cheerful digs in London, Mr Appleton decided he would like reminders of home around him and built another Britannia to grace his mantelpiece. "It was a bit primitive and as soon as I

Model man with a good line in boats



All my own work: Adam Appleton's model-making started when he was only six

had finished it I saw how I could improve," he says. "Then I realised you could buy models of virtually every kind of boat, except the old J-class, which were some of the most dramatic yachts built, and the Britannia was the best loved of them all."

That began the model-making business. However, getting the original specifications to make an exact replica was difficult. The boat-builder

D.W. Henderson did not want to part with the plans. "They offered to re-draw the hull lines for the princely sum of £700," Mr Appleton says. "Then in the British Library I found a very early copy of the *Yachting Monthly*. It had the full plans and I copied them."

Although Mr Appleton devotes much of his time to research, he uses a little artistic licence when there is no original with which to com-

pare his models. "The trouble is that the Britannia was around until 1936, so there is some film taken aboard the yacht and there are photographs showing some details," he says. "I do have a little licence but with a perfectionist's attitude and the more I get to know, the more I refine each model."

Mr Appleton's latest task is a two-year project to re-create the Endeavour at a 200th of its

size. As the real Endeavour has been lovingly restored and is now back on the water, he has to be precise. "I do not think I have bitten off more than I can chew with this but I am taking it to the limits of my skill and equipment. My worst problem is to replicate the deck gear," he says.

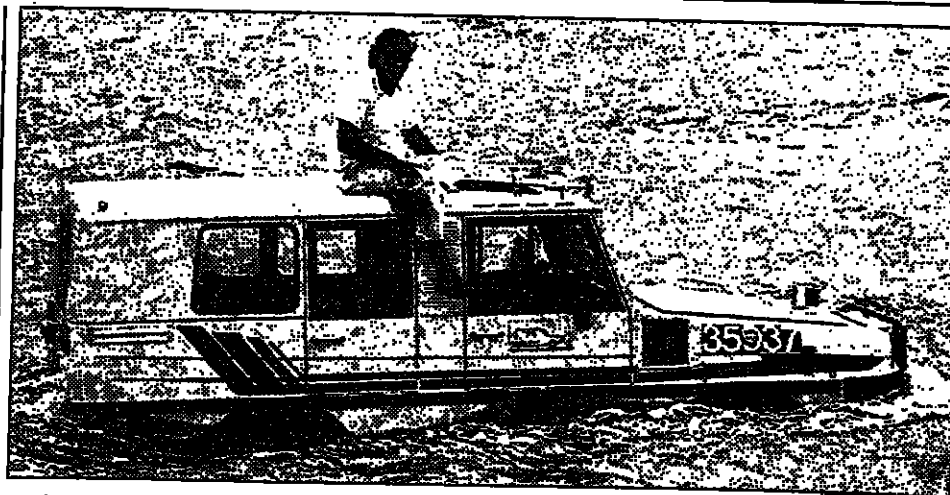
Some of the component parts are no bigger than a match-head, worked and turned on a watchmaker's lathe with infinite patience.

"I would like to think that Endeavour's owner, Elizabeth Meyer, would want the model herself, but that means I have got to get it just right," he says. "She is not going to pay \$70,000 if I have missed something."

Having broken his first model the minute he took it over the threshold, Mr Appleton now takes better care of his models and his customers. "I do not let the client come here to take the model away. I take it to them and assemble it wherever it is to be displayed," he says.

One Britannia was put together in an Admiralty launch. Mr Appleton would rush out and drop the model over the side to make sure it was balanced correctly, raising a few eyebrows on board, especially when he filled the hull with molten lead to get the model to sit correctly in water. However, move fast if you want to buy an Appleton original. He has so many other ideas and projects in the pipeline that his model-building days may be numbered. "I shall probably still build a few, but I may be tempted to hang on to them," he says.

ALEX RAMSAY



Stealing the thunder at Cowes: the German-built Amphib-Ranger goes into action

At home on land or sea

LAND-ROVER found its nose put out of joint during Cowes Week (Alex Ramsay writes).

Having sponsored the regatta to the tune of £1 million it set up shop on the Parade bringing along a prototype amphibious vehicle — basically a Land-Rover Discovery with a lot of floats attached — to take clients and guests out for a spin on the sea.

However, on day one it discovered a West German company ploughing through the waves with its Amphib-Ranger. The vehicle, which is built by Rheinauer Maschinen und Armaturenbau and sells for £96,286, is made from aluminium rather than steel and is designed to cope with rough sea conditions — a real ocean-going car.

The UK importer, David Saunders, put this to the test by driving the first Amphib-Ranger from West Germany via the Channel. He now has

A car that takes you everywhere

his sights set on crossing the Atlantic. Zipping through the Cowes waves at a top speed of 10 knots, the Amphib-Ranger far behind, although to be fair the Land-Rover was built purely for fun and promotional purposes.

ESSENTIALS

Top water speed: 10 knots
Top road speed: 100mph
Seating capacity: 5-6
Length: 20ft
Width: 6ft
Engine: 2.9 V6 Ford Granada
Fuel consumption on road: 15-20mpg
Further details: Amphib-Ranger, Peel House, Peel Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 9PT (0695 50526).

Getting the car into the water is simplicity itself. Release the wheel drive. Flick a switch to engage the propeller and off you go. It is as easy getting out again and with the Amphib's excellent ground clearance and gutsy four-wheel drive, hauling up any river bank or seashore should be no problem.

The car has been designed as a serious off-road vehicle, not as a gimmick. The intention is to give drivers the ultimate freedom to go wherever their fancy takes them.

If the Amphib has a drawback it is access. The door sills are high enough to make getting in and out difficult on land, but not high enough if in the water, leaving you to clamber through the sun-roof when the Amphib is afloat. Meanwhile, Land-Rover can always reassure itself that for the price of an Amphib the yachtsman could buy a Discovery and a boat.

Executive Editor David Brewerton

Unions back staff buyout at PowerGen

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ELECTRICITY supply trade unions have backed a management-employee buyout of PowerGen.

They have made it clear that they will oppose, possibly with strike action, a sale to a third party that fails to guarantee continued operation of power stations and a bar on compulsory redundancy for five years.

After meeting John Wakeham, the energy secretary, yesterday, the Electricity Supply Trade Union Council (ESTUC), issued a statement condemning what it described as unfair discrimination in favour of Hanson, and the government's refusal to allow PowerGen's management to arrange a buyout with employees until after Hanson makes a guaranteed reserve bid, which is expected by Friday.

John Lyons, head of the power engineers and secretary of ESTUC, said: "In all normal circumstances, a management and workforce of a company are free to mount opposition to a predatory takeover of their company. Here the government is tying the management's hands behind their back. They are doing so in order to give Hanson, whose interest the government encouraged in the

first place, a dry run." He said this contrasted with the government's support for management-employee buyouts in other circumstances.

In contrast to Roy Lynk's Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which has teamed up with Legal & General to mount a possible £1.5 billion offer, the ESTUC has no plans for the unions to be part of a consortium.

They want a management-employee buyout with City backing to be given an opportunity to rebid, as Hanson may do, in order to match the highest trade offer made for PowerGen.

If Hanson makes a firm offer, Mr Wakeham plans to decide within three weeks whether to abandon plans for a public flotation of PowerGen and start an auction with approved bidders who would be sent a confidential sale document. The energy department said yesterday that other bidders would be given the same access to PowerGen as Hanson and it was recognised that time would be needed to digest the material and formulate a bid.

Flotation of PowerGen was scheduled for next February but the government now appears anxious to clinch a quick sale, probably before flotation

of the electricity distribution companies in November.

The ESTUC says that the sales contract should include requirements that ensure there are no compulsory redundancies for five years, no sales or closures of power stations without government approval, and no sales of power stations unless staff approved future terms of employment. Commitments would also have to be made on research and development, use of pension fund surpluses, and continuation of existing obligations and severance schemes.

If these conditions were not agreed by an outside buyer, the unions would consider a full strike against the new owner.

The declaration by PowerGen's management that it regards a management-led bid as the best alternative to a flotation has led to industrial companies, as well as the UDM/Legal & General group, showing interest in being potential partners.

Much of the competition to own PowerGen is likely to be in securing a partnership with management, rather than making separate bids in the Wakeham auction.

Leading article, page 11

£100m drink factory planned

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WITH the boom in soft drinks sales Cadbury Schweppes and Coca-Cola are planning a £100 million state-of-the-art factory in the south of England to meet expected growth in the £4 billion carbonated fizzy drinks market.

Cadbury and Coca-Cola have a joint venture company, in which Cadbury has a 51 per cent stake, which opened a factory at Wakefield, Yorkshire, last October. It is the largest integrated soft drinks plant in Europe.

The new factory will have filling lines for both cans and plastic bottles. Sites at Northampton and Banbury are currently being considered and it is due to be completed in April 1992.

An additional filling line is shortly to be installed at Wakefield, which will increase capacity there by more than a third again to meet greater demand.

The British market for all soft drinks — concentrates as well as carbonates — was worth £4.4 billion last year, an 18.5 per cent increase on the previous year, according to a new survey by Euromonitor, the market researchers. It expects sales to top £5 billion this year due to the hot summer. Cadbury and Coca-

Cola statistics suggest this underestimates the size of the market which probably reached the £5 billion mark last year.

Britain is already the largest soft drinks consumer of soft drinks, reaching 7.1 billion litres last year, according to Euromonitor. It is expected to reach 7.6 billion litres this year. But at a per capita consumption of 133 litres a year Britons are still well behind the Americans with their 175 litres a year.

*Soft Drinks: the international market 1990: Euromonitor, 87-88 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5QU; £1,250.

BUSINESS

Civil engineers hit by shortage of work and rising fuel costs

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SOARING fuel prices caused by the tension in the Middle East are hitting Britain's £4 billion-a-year civil engineering industry. The industry is a heavy user of oil in machinery and oil-based materials, such as tarmac.

The rising cost is one of several factors putting civil engineering profit margins under pressure as work that was expected has failed to appear.

The dearth of new work has led to widespread disillusionment, especially among medium sized and smaller firms, said Ron Emery, director general of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (FCEC).

The proportion of firms reporting fewer tender invitations compared with 12 months ago has risen from 30 per to 45 per cent, the worst level since the middle of 1981. Thirty per cent expect new work orders to fall, a doubling of the pessimism in the industry.

The FCEC has already warned government departments about the problems its members could face because most government contracts are on a two-year fixed price basis. If there is a sustained increase in oil prices, the FCEC will look to Whitehall to help firms facing losses.

The department most closely involved is transport, with its responsibility for large roadbuilding contracts, but there would also be negotiations with the environment department, the defence ministry and the Scottish and Welsh offices.

Normally at mid-year, civil engineers, along with the rest of the construction industry, look to push up tender prices to take account of the annual pay round in June. This year it has added nearly 10 per cent to salary and wage costs but, with competition so great for what work is available, the pressure is on to keep tender prices low.

More than two thirds of civil engineering companies surveyed said their margins were lower than a year before. This compared with 41 per cent reporting lower margins the year before.

Yet civil engineers are less exposed to tough trading conditions than others in construction, not having as much capital tied up as builders. This means that while building employers have given



Widespread disillusionment: Ron Emery of the FCEC at a building site in the City

warning of 50,000 jobs being cut by the end of this year, civil engineers, so far, are not expecting to have to cut staff.

The only expected new contracts for civil engineers starting to come through are major road schemes, and these are going to the big companies.

Mr Emery said: "The

majority of our members are not in that league. They are feeling the pinch and are deeply worried about the future. Events in the Gulf, since our latest state-of-the-art survey was concluded, will have done nothing to ease their disquiet.

"Civil engineering is sensitive to both oil prices and the general state of the economy."

Civil engineers' hopes have also been pinned on a spate of work from the water companies and local authorities which has not materialised.

The drying up of work from local authorities probably reflects widespread community charge collection problems, Mr Emery said.

Ultramar orders Korean tankers

By MARTIN BARROW

ULTRAMAR, the British oil and gas group, has placed an order worth \$212 million for three oil tankers from Samsung Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries, of South Korea.

Each of the 148,500-tonne Suezmax crude oil carriers will be ice-strengthened and double-skinned, and will be capable of carrying 1 million barrels of oil. Two will be delivered in 1992 and the third in 1993.

Ultramar said the ships would secure its anticipated long-term crude oil transport requirements to its refinery in Quebec, Canada, which is supplied mainly from the North Sea.

The ships would eliminate the need to charter large vessels during the winter season when freight rates are high.

One-third of the total cost is to be funded from the company's existing finance, with 20 per cent payable now and 12 per cent within three months. The balance is payable on delivery of each vessel and will be provided by the Export Import Bank of Korea. Ultramar will then repay the bank over eight and a half years.

Each vessel will have double sides and a double bottom and will be resilient to leakage in the event of a collision or grounding. Ultramar is anticipating tough legislation to be introduced in North America to reflect environmental concerns over oil spills, which have increased since the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska.

John Darby, chairman of Ultramar, said: "This shipbuilding programme will ensure that we can supply our Quebec refinery with crude oil safely and economically into the 21st century."

"The new vessels will be built to the highest standard and demonstrate Ultramar's commitment to the environment. The programme continues the reorientation of our shipping operations to focus on meeting our internal transportation requirements."

Last year Ultramar sold four 76,000-tonne carriers for \$143 million. The company's fleet comprises two 76,000-tonne carriers and three American-flag vessels under long-term charter, and is supplemented by vessels of up to 150,000 tonnes on short and medium-term charter.

THE POUND	
US dollar	1.8715 (+0.0005)
W German mark	2.9747 (-0.0052)
Exchange index	94.9 (same)

STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 Share	1743.0 (-9.8)
FT-SE 100	2233.8 (-11.1)
New York Dow Jones	2711.63 (-47.28)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	27329.55 (-286.18)
Closing Prices ...	Page 37

INTEREST RATES	
London: Bank Base	15%
3-month Interbank	15-14 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	14 1/4-14 1/2%
US: Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds	8%
3-month Treasury Bills	7.40-7.38%
30-year bonds	9 1/2-9 3/4%

CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£: \$1.8715	£: \$1.8717
£: DM2.9747	£: DM2.9747
£: Sfr2.5078	£: Sfr2.5078
£: FFfr.8330	£: FFfr.8330
£: Yen281.10	£: Yen281.10
£: Index94.9	£: Index94.9
£: ECU1.441855	£: ECU1.441855
£: SDP1.372579	£: SDP1.372579

GOLD	
London Fixing:	AM 338.75 pm 338.95
close 339.10 339.10 (2208 75-205.25)	
New York:	Comex 338.40-339.90

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Sep)	\$25.70 bbl (\$24.75)

TOURIST RATES	
Australia \$	2.45
Austria Sch	21.80
Belgium Fr	64.20
Canada \$	2.22
Denmark Kr	11.80
Finland Mk	7.34
France Fr	10.41
Germany DM	3.10
Greece Dr	320
Hong Kong \$	15.10
Ireland P	1.63
Italy Lit	2.775
Japan Yen	236.25
Netherlands Gld	3.478
Norway Kr	12.10
Portugal Esc	200
Spain Ptas	166
Sweden Kr	11.32
Switzerland Fr	2.615
Turkey Lira	1.120
USA \$	1.95
Yugoslavia Dnr	25.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 126.7 (June)

Ratners is 'near to Kay deal'

RATNERS, the jewellery group, is drawing close to winning its drawn-out battle with the American holders of Kay Jewellers' junk bonds.

Sources in New York said that the group is near to agreement with the bondholders at 90 cents in the dollar.

Ratners has made a £234 million offer for Kay which is dependent on acceptances from holders of 51 per cent of Kay's junk bonds. Ratners has had to increase its initial offer of 75 cents in the dollar.

If an offer to the bondholders succeeds at 90 cents, it will cost Ratners an additional \$23 million, although the sum could be reduced by tax clawbacks.

Sterling helped by Middle East

The pound continued to benefit from uncertainty in the Middle East, holding on to the modest gains made this week and closing steady at 94.9 on its raw-weighted index.

High interest rates and market perceptions about sterling's petro-currency status provided underpinning. It closed fractionally firmer against the dollar at \$1.8715, but was nearly 0.43 pence lower at DM2.9748.

West Trust up

West Trust increased pre-tax profits by 17 per cent to £608,000 in the year to end-March. The dividend is held at 0.25p. However, earnings per share fell 10 per cent to 1.12p due to last year's rights issue.

No dividend

The Chestergate interior design group fell to a pre-tax loss of £329,000 in the half-year to end-February, compared with profits of £1.27 million. The company is passing its dividend (2.3p last year).

Silentnight sale

Silentnight is selling its upholstery division in a management buyout for £9 million.

Madrid venture

James Capel and Midland Montagu, two brokers, have opened a joint securities house in Madrid.



Outlook brighter: Dennis Rose, chairman of Wholesale Fittings, yesterday

Wholesale Fittings declines 17%

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRE-TAX profits at Wholesale Fittings, the wholesale electrical distributor, fell 17 per cent to £6.1 million in the year to April 27.

According to Dennis Rose, chairman, sales were adversely affected by a decline in new building work and a sluggish refurbishment market. Turnover increased 7 per cent to £63.5 million but the rise was insufficient to cover

higher costs. Mr Rose said that sales in the first three months of the current year were ahead of the corresponding period of the previous year.

During the year nine new depots were opened round the country at a cost so far of £500,000.

Since the year-end three more had been opened. The latest at Heathrow began trading this week. With another depot due to open at Brighton

soon, the company will have a total of 49 outlets.

Mr Rose said these new outlets would take longer to move into profit. "Past experience shows that the typical depot will cover operating and pre-trading costs in 12 months. In view of the current economic conditions I would extend this to 18 months."

The final dividend is being increased 5 per cent to 13.39p (12.75p) to make a total of 16.62p (15.98p).

Tax threat sours California wine

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

BRITISH companies, which have bought almost 15 per cent of the \$2.1 billion California wine market in the past three years, are facing a big tax rise on alcohol that could cripple sales.

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drink company, now California's second largest wine maker, and Allied-Lyons, whose Hiram Walker subsidiary owns several premium brands, will be hit hardest.

Lining up against them are consumer activists of the mental health community, social service organisations and anti-alcohol groups pushing for the state tax on a gallon of wine to be lifted from 1 cent to \$1.29, duty on a gallon of spirits to rise from \$2 to \$8.40 and on beer from 4 cents to 57.5 cents.

One analyst has already described the new taxes as a back-door way to reintroduce prohibition and a spokesman for Grand Metropolitan says it is potentially devastating. GrandMet has joined an industry lobby mounting a \$20 million counter campaign. It is believed to be the most expensive fight since the state granted voters a special ability to change

laws by collecting petitions 83 years ago.

More than a million signatures in favour of raising alcohol taxes were handed to the state officials in May, enough to ensure that the proposals are put to the general vote in November.

Two years ago consumer groups launched a similar campaign designed to lower car insurance premiums. But despite being voted through, subsequent challenges by the insurance industry through the courts have rendered the vote ineffective so far.

Peter Seremet, a spokesman for Grand Met, said last night: "We are deeply concerned over the impact these tax increases would have on our company and the industry. You hate to use the word devastating but it would be tremendously negative both in terms of profits and loss of jobs," he added.

Independent researchers say the tax rises would put the price of a bottle of wine up by 18 per cent and a bottle of spirits by 26 per cent.

Jon Fredrikson, a San Francisco wine industry analyst, said: "The market is in turmoil. Alcohol is under attack from all sides. There are moves to ensure bottles

and cans carry a health warning, restrictions on advertising, attempts to increase the drinking age and tougher drug-driving laws, plus the market for jug (non-premium) wine has been declining between 2 and 5 per cent in each of the last eight years."

Grand Met is a leading producer in the jug wine section of the market, making 113,400 gallons of wine a year in five plants, although it is a small player in the premium wine market with Inglenook and Beaulieu brands.

Allied-Lyons produces a tiny 2,300 gallons of wine a year, but has bought selectively into premium brands which include Clos du Bois. Industry sources suggest Allied is considering entering the more popular wine market with an offer for Vintners International, California's third largest wine maker, whose products include Paul Masson and Taylor California Cellars wines.

Vintners management staged a \$225 million buyout of the company three years ago but it is now weighed down with debt and desperate to seek a buyer, and Allied's name has been mentioned as a potential bidder.

TI lifts North American earnings with \$240m buy

By JONATHAN PEVYN

TI GROUP, the specialist engineering company, has spent \$240 million on an American acquisition that will take its North American earnings to just under 50 per cent of group profits.

The announcement of the purchase of the Fluid Components Technology Group (FCTG) from EG&G, the American engineering company, follows a stream of North American deals, including the acquisitions of John Crane and Bundy, both specialist tubing businesses, since Christopher Lewinton, its chairman, arrived in 1986.

Mr Lewinton said: "I am very pleased that EG&G has agreed to our acquiring these businesses. They have very good management and exciting growth prospects. They fit well within our strategy and we have the necessary financial resources. It really is more of the same."

FCTG comprises a number of specialist international engineering businesses, including engineered seals, a market in which John Crane, a subsidiary of TI, also operates.

However, Mark Radcliffe, a TI director, said the overlap between the two companies would be minimal as FCTG was a large supplier to the aerospace industry, a sector in which John Crane had little involvement. FCTG also supplies the marine and industrial sectors. About 25 per cent of its business is defence related.

FCTG had sales of \$180 million last year, about half of which were in North America. It also has a small manufacturing plant in Shannon, Ireland.

No profit figures are yet available, but Mr Radcliffe said the acquisition would not be dilutive and would be on a sensible p/e. Analysts said an exit p/e of about 12 would be typical for the sector.

The deal will take TI's North American earnings from their current 40 per cent level to almost half. It is being financed out of cash resources and existing credit facilities.

TI had net cash of £45.3 million at its December 31 year-end. After goodwill write-offs, borrowings taken on to fund the acquisition will take

gearing to about 40 per cent, but with interest cover of more than 20 times earnings.

TI made the offer for FCTG after NOR, a Japanese company, made an approach to EG&G. "We believe we got the right bid in," said Mr Radcliffe.

The market reacted favourably, with TI shares closing 3p up on the day at 486p. "FCTG has a strong market position, particularly in aerospace, and will allow TI to improve its mix of customers," said Ed Wright, an analyst at BZW.

"The company operates in similar areas to TI's existing US businesses where there is a high element of value-added technical service, offering good returns," he said.

FCTG is also likely to be heavily involved in supplying the aftermarket. About 50 per cent of John Crane's business and 25 per cent of TI's total sales are aftermarket related.

The takeover is subject to regulatory clearances, including US competition laws, but analysts do not anticipate any problems.

Wholesale prices fall 0.1% in US

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WHOLESALE prices in the United States last month showed their first decline since April, falling by 0.1 per cent. But they are expected to climb sharply this month and next as higher oil prices prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait start to feed through into the economy.

The market had expected a July rise of 0.2 per cent in the Labor Department's producer price index, matching the June increase.

The figures, which provide a guide to future retail price trends, suggest the core wholesale price inflation rate slipped 0.1 per cent last month after rising 0.6 per cent in June.

Unilever prospers in the European sector

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and consumer products group, fell 9p to 661p following an apparently cautious statement on future trading prospects from Sir Michael Angus, the chairman.

Sir Michael was speaking at the company's annual general meeting, where he announced that Unilever's second-quarter profits up 5 per cent at £477 million. Turnover increased by 14 per cent to £5.7 billion.

Sir Michael said: "Following the progress of the first half of the year, prevailing uncertainties prompt a measure of caution when viewing the second half." After falling sharply on initial reaction to this comment, Unilever's shares grad-

ually recovered ground as it became clear that Sir Michael was referring to global economic problems that might arise from the conflict in the Middle East, rather than to any inherent trading problem at Unilever.

Combining the first and second quarters, Unilever made pre-tax profits of £843 million on sales of £10.8 billion in the six months to June, despite an interest charge that more than doubled to £176 million in the first half of the year.

As normal the company will announce its interim dividend at the time of its third-quarter results in the autumn.

At the beginning of the current financial year Unilever moved to using average exchange rates rather

than year-end exchange rates when preparing results.

On that basis, using average rates for 1989, attributable profits rose 12 per cent to £516 million in the first half. At current exchange rates the increase was 18 per cent. Sir Michael said the results represented satisfactory progress. "In Europe most of our product groups showed increases in operating profit, particularly detergents, personal products and food and drinks. The new market opportunities in East Germany contributed to the strong performance of our German business."

Unilever recently estimated that the revaluation of Germany could add 25 per cent to its German sales. Operating margins in Europe and

the rest of the world rose in the first half. In Europe, margins rose from 9.2 per cent a year ago to 9.4 per cent, while in the rest of the world margins rose from 10.1 per cent to 11.2 per cent.

For the second quarter alone, margins for Europe were 10 per cent, while strong demand from the Latin American countries helped the rest of the world to increase margins to 11.3 per cent, despite increasingly competitive markets in Japan.

Margins in North America, however, came under pressure. In the second quarter operating margins fell to 7.4 per cent, compared to 7.7 per cent in the same period last year.

For the first six months, North American margins averaged 6.5, compared to 7.6 per cent a year ago.

"In North America margins in our detergents business suffered in a strong competitive climate and this offset improved results in edible fats and specialty chemicals," said Sir Michael. Last year's acquisition of Fabergé and Elizabeth Arden, bought from the Riklis Family Corporation for \$1.5 billion, are performing in line with expectations.

The impressive results from the rest of the world were further enhanced by the release of a £16 million provision, apparently relating to a plantation operation in Cameroon.

However, last year's comparable figures benefited by £27 million from the sale of an office block in Sweden.

Oil prices rise again on new fear

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL prices became firmer in late trading in London yesterday as tension increased in the Middle East, with Iraq calling on fellow Arabs to rise up against foreign forces.

September Brent traded at \$25.4 a barrel, against Thursday's close of \$24.75. In New York, West Texas Intermediate for September delivery rose 71 cents to \$26.38 a barrel. Dealers took advantage of the remaining trading hours to position themselves ahead of the weekend. Confused reports emerging from the Middle East provided price support.

Supply fears have eased since the beginning of the week, helped by statements from members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries that production could be increased to meet the expected 4.2 million barrel-a-day shortfall which exists now that Iraq and Kuwait have been taken off stream.

BP has said that if an additional 2 million barrels a day could be supplied by nations such as Venezuela and Nigeria, members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development would be covered to the end of next June.

But with military confrontation between Iraq and the international force assembled by the United States now looking inevitable, fears of serious disruption on the oil market have returned.

"Oil supplies are not like a bath," said Chris Perry, an analyst with Gironzente Gilbert Elliott. "You cannot just turn supplies on and off overnight."

The supply focus is now on Saudi Arabia, which looks like becoming the frontline for military confrontation and whose oil production facilities would almost certainly be the target of Iraqi strikes.

In 1989 Saudi Arabia supplied 1.1 million bpd to Western Europe, 1.2 million bpd to the United States and 600,000 bpd to Japan, which produces virtually no oil of its own.

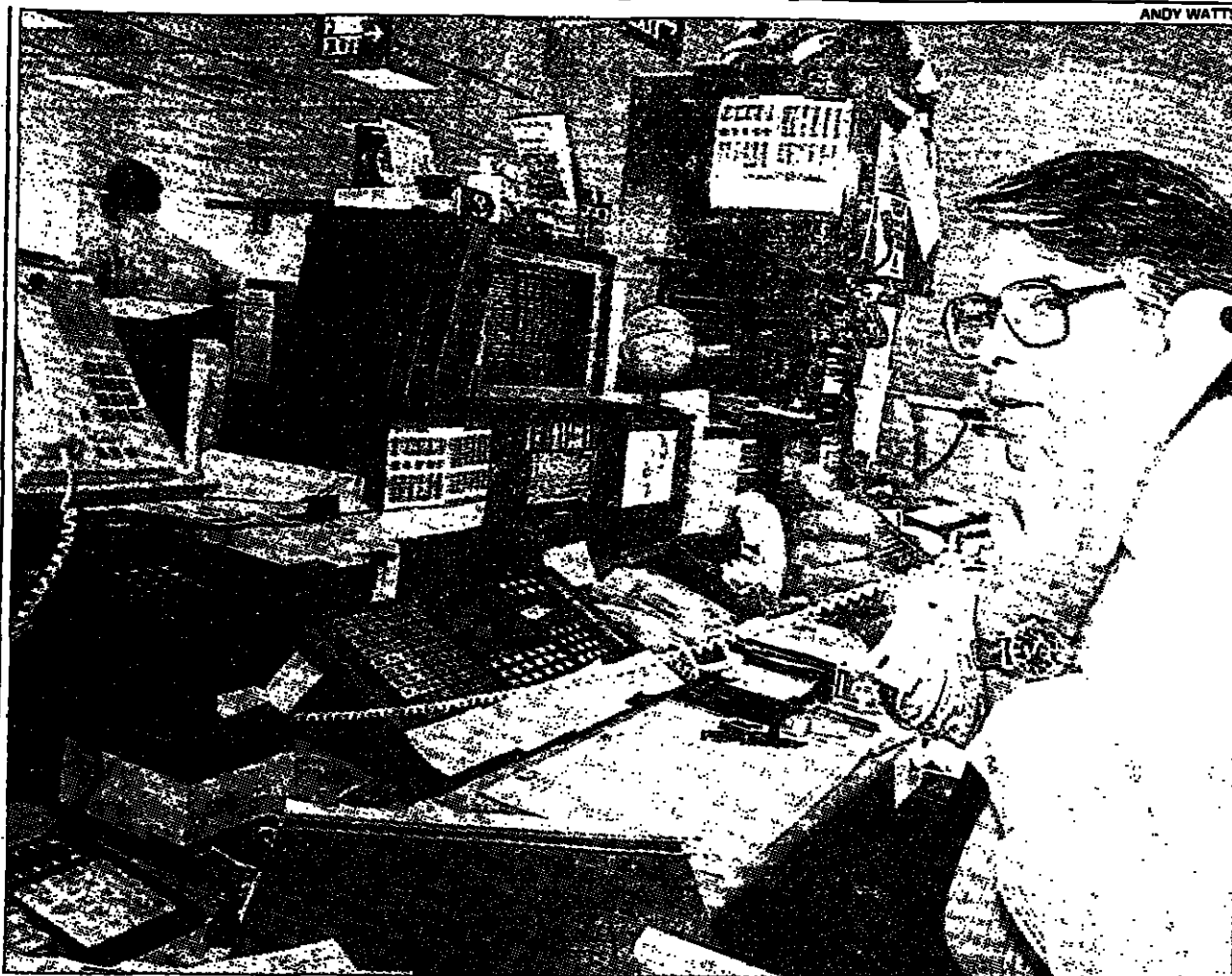
Other Opec nations supplied 2.1 million bpd to the United States, 1.7 million bpd to Japan and 3.6 million to Western Europe.

European airlines yesterday warned passengers to expect higher fares as a result of the crisis.

Karl-Heinz Neumeister, secretary-general of the Association of European Airlines, said: "Given the events of the last few days a reaction of the airlines on the price side seems unavoidable."

An AEA statement said the number of passengers carried by its 21 member airlines surged by 10 per cent in the first half of 1990.

However, costs were rising twice as fast as revenue even before Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2.



Action man: Peter Gignoux, senior vice-president of Lehman Brothers, at the firm's petroleum desk yesterday

Traders braced for a turbulent week

By OUR CITY STAFF

LONDON oil traders are braced for another frenetic week as tension escalates in the Middle East and supply fears return to the market.

Peter Gignoux, senior vice-president of Lehman Brothers and manager of the energy desk in London, described yesterday's relative calm as "the eye of the hurricane."

Mr Gignoux and his staff of 14, including eight based at the International Petroleum Exchange in London, took

advantage of the quieter market to assess the current position and gather strength for what is expected to be another five days of furious activity. Last week trading at Lehman rose to between 18 million and 20 million barrels per day (bpd) compared with the normal 2 million to 3 million bpd. Opec's total daily output is 24 million bpd.

"As fears of a head-on confrontation increase, the collective worries of the market become stronger. Any

development which threatens supplies will send a clear signal to the market that prices should go higher," he said.

When the events in the Gulf worsened last Saturday and Sunday, Mr Gignoux cut short a long weekend in France and chartered a plane, arriving in London at 2.30am on Monday. Since then he has worked until at least 10pm each day, and throughout the night makes regular checks on the progress of oil prices in Tokyo and the Far East before return-

ing to his desk early each morning.

"The day starts when something happens," he said. "Monday and Tuesday were very tough, very tense. Later in the week the market was relatively calm but we anticipate a substantial increase in activity as soon as there is some form of confrontation." He thinks prices will recover to \$30 a barrel. "We have seen some people pay as high as \$30 for prompt West Texas and that will be repeated."

Birkbys is sold to Japanese

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Japanese have become the latest beneficiaries of the break-up of Plessey by GEC and Siemens winning a private auction to buy Birkbys Plastics in Liversedge, West Yorkshire.

Birkbys makes plastic car components and computer casings and had sales of £36.5 million in the year to end-March.

The price is not being revealed but is estimated to be between £40 and £45 million. Marubeni, one of Japan's big five trading houses, will sell a minority stake in Birkbys to Sanko Gosei. Sanko, which makes plastics tooling equipment, already has a technical and marketing agreement with Birkbys.

Marubeni joins a growing list of overseas companies to benefit from the £2 billion acquisition of Plessey last year.

In July, Cap Gemini Sogeti, the French software house, paid £199 million for a 69.5 per cent stake in Hoskins.

The acquisition marks the latest stage in the Japanese advance into Britain's high-technology industries.

Last week Fujitsu confirmed its £745 million purchase of control of ICL, the country's largest remaining computer manufacturer.

Properties drag Pavilion into loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

PAVILION Leisure, the leisure company run by the former Pleasurama and Land Leisure chief George Martin, has reported interim pre-tax losses of £1.5 million and passed its dividend.

Pavilion's losses arise from a commercial property portfolio it inherited when it acquired the leisure and property group Parkdale Holdings for £67 million last year.

Having successfully disposed of the bulk of Parkdale's portfolio in its last financial year, further disposals have been hindered by the slump in the commercial property market. Although eight of the remaining 11 properties were sold in the six months to April, the disposals resulted in a £1.6 million loss.



Martin: hit by slump

Despite Pavilion's leisure activities chipping in an operating profit of £559,000, the losses on the property disposals together with an interest charge of £1.2 million and £521,000 of restructuring costs taken as an extraordinary item, resulted in total losses of £2.1 million.

Mr Martin is pleased with the progress made towards turning Pavilion into a pure leisure company. "It could have been a great deal worse," he said.

Pavilion still has three properties to sell. Mr Martin is optimistic that two of these, a bus depot in Stevenage and a 12.5-acre site in Stockport, should be sold in the second half for about £8 million.

Pavilion currently has three principal leisure businesses. Two, Clifford Barnett, which develops and manages leisure facilities for local authorities, and Select Hotels came with the Parkdale acquisition. The third, SP Pavilion, a private sector version of Clifford Barnett, was established last year. Mr Martin is encouraged by the progress made by all three and anticipates a larger profits contribution in the second half, although the outlook for the group as a whole rests largely on the remaining property disposals.

First-half losses cut at March

By JONATHAN PRYNN

MARCH Group, the USM quoted racing car engineering company that is diversifying into financial services, made a £104,000 pre-tax loss during the six months to end-April.

In the same period of last year, the company suffered a £68,000 deficit. Turnover rose 84 per cent to £7.41 million.

The figures are the first since the company began its move into financial services through the £3 million acquisition of Cobbold Roach, the private client stock-brokers, in April.

John Cowen, chairman, said March continued to look for acquisition opportunities that would dovetail with its aim of "creating an advisory and discretionary investment division meeting the financial needs of private individuals."

The company's traditional car engineering business had a disappointing half year, Mr Cowen said. Two car development projects, for Porsche and Alfa, had run over budget. The problems had been exacerbated by a contract disagreement with Alfa, which might lead to litigation.

The problems in the engineering business made it difficult to give any meaningful projections. There is no interim dividend and little prospect of a final payout.

DMB&B buys UK business of Yellowhammer agency

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

D'ARCY Masius Benton & Bowles (DMB&B), the advertising group, has acquired for an undisclosed sum the British advertising agency business of Yellowhammer, which called in a receiver on Monday.

Yellowhammer will continue to operate autonomously as a "sister" agency of DMB&B, the tenth largest agency in the world.

Graham Hinton, the joint chairman of DMB&B, said Yellowhammer's "separate identity and culture" will be preserved, but gave a warning that there could be some

redundancies among the agency's 100 staff after DMB&B's review of its cost structure.

DMB&B has confirmed it will not take on any of Yellowhammer's debts, which exceed £5 million. Cork Gully, the receiver, would not say if monies paid by DMB&B for Yellowhammer's assets and goodwill cover the debt.

Yellowhammer's key clients - Fiat, Barclays Bank, the Central Office of Information and Jean Patou perfume - have said they are willing to stay with the agency, which has billings of £60 million.

Jon Summerill will continue as chairman of Yellowhammer and Jeremy Pemberton as creative director. John Fourie, previously business development director of DMB&B, has been brought in as Yellowhammer's managing director.

SPA, Yellowhammer's public relations company, has been sold to Sara Pearson, its founder and managing director. A management buyout for Generator Advertising, another Yellowhammer subsidiary, is thought most likely, although Cork Gully confirmed there is "third party interest."

California insurers told to pay

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

TWO California car insurers have been ordered to give rebates totalling \$133 million in a test case for the state's insurance reforms.

The sum represents what top California insurance regulators believe was made in excessive profits by the two companies - Safeco and the California State Automobile Association - last year.

Both companies have challenged the claims and say they will take court action if the

rebates are upheld at a special hearing next month. Under a ruling on Wednesday a Safeco motorist spending \$1,000 on car insurance would receive \$110 and an AA motorist would have \$70.

Ms Roxani Gillespie, the state insurance commissioner, has already set an 11.2 per cent benchmark for return on equity as an acceptable level of profits for insurers. The rebate would cost Safeco \$41 million and the non-profit making

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fall in programme sales knocks Border

FALLING advertising revenues and fewer programme sales opportunities have led to a 43 per cent decline in pre-tax profits at the USM-quoted ITV contractor Border Television. Border turned in £406,000 profits for the year ended April 30, compared with £716,000 last year.

The greatest damage was caused by a halving of revenue from programme sales to £1.63 million. The company faces a squeeze from the independent sector, which must provide 25 per cent of all UK non-news programmes by 1993 under the terms of the Broadcasting Bill. There was also a 3 per cent decline in advertising revenue to £9.94 million. A final 1.23p dividend makes a total of 2.1p for the year, up 10 per cent on last year.

Wace buys label maker

WACE Group, the pre-press services and specialist printing company, has acquired Ripley Group for up to £8.54 million in cash and shares. Wace will make an initial payment of £4.53 million. Further payments up to £4.01 million will depend on future profits. Ripley, which produces multi-purpose wraps and labels, made pre-tax profits of £861,000 in the year to end-January on turnover of £17.3 million.

Sharp fall at steel group

PRE-TAX profits at Ayrshire Metal Products, the specialist steel fabricator that was turned around during the late 1980s, fell from £1.83 million to £836,000 in the six months to end-June. The company blamed a downturn in orders from the commercial vehicle and industrial building sectors. Turnover was down 9.6 per cent at £17.26 million. The interim dividend is 1.75p (2.5p).

Hawtal Whiting rises

HAWTAL Whiting Holdings, the automotive design and engineering consultancy, reports a 30 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £34,000 in the six months to end-June.

Turnover advanced 39 per cent to £28.4 million, with 86 per cent of this going overseas. The improvement was broadly based. Operating profits advanced 60 per cent to £1.71 million. However, interest payments jumped from £379,000 to £1.7 million, with gearing at about 50 per cent at halfway, following last year's investment in worldwide expansion and computer aided design. Earnings per share slip from 4.5p to 3.6p. Tax charges increased from £142,000 to £285,000. Once again, there is no interim dividend. The shares were unchanged at 190p.

GFW closes London office

GOODMAN Fielder Wattie, the Australian food group, that bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall in 1988, and in 1989 found the tables turned when RHM made a bid for it, is closing its London office. The company said it had reviewed plans for developing its European activities. Future acquisitions in Europe would be made through its Netherlands subsidiary, Meneta.

Provident buys BAF

PROVIDENT Financial, the door-to-door lending group, is expanding its hire purchase interests with the £2.55 million acquisition of Burns-Anderson Finance, the finance house subsidiary of Burns-Anderson. Burns-Anderson Finance, with pre-tax profits of £396,000 and loans of £20.7 million in the year to end-September 1989, will be merged with Lynn Regis Finance, bought by Provident last year.

Tribune ahead 27%

CONTINUED advertising growth helped Tribune Newspapers, the Irish newspaper group that owns *The Sunday Tribune* and *Dublin Tribune*, lift pre-tax profits 27 per cent to £246,000 (£222,000) in the year to April 2. Overall growth has been running at about 8 per cent, although press advertising has risen about 15 per cent, reflecting a switch away from television towards newspapers. The company said the increased circulation at *The Sunday Tribune* should have "a significant impact on this year's advertising revenue." Group turnover grew from £5.88 million to £7.47 million. Earnings per share climb from 11.58p to 13.51p. The company, which is quoted on the smaller companies market in Dublin, does not pay a dividend.

ANZ Bank profits warning

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ANZ Bank in Australia has given a warning that profits will fall in the second half of the current year to the end of September. Milton Bridgland, the chairman, blamed a "domino effect" among business failures in Australia that was increasing its bad debt burden.

ANZ has been forced to raise its forecasts for bad debt provisions by Aus\$100 million (£43.4 million) for the half year. In the first half, net profits fell 23 per cent to Aus\$310 million, as debt provisions rose 88 per cent to Aus\$225 million.

US seeks recovery of \$40.9m after thrift collapse

WASHINGTON - Savings and loan regulators have announced that the government is suing Charles Keating and five business associates, including Keating family members, to recover \$40.9 million in depositors' funds from the now-defunct Lincoln Savings and Loan Association of Irvine, California.

The action represents the largest sum the Office of Thrift Supervision has sought from former savings and loan operators.

It adds another legal entanglement for Mr Keating, the Phoenix developer who headed American Continental, the parent of Lincoln until it was seized by the government in April 1989.

"We believe Mr Keating and his associates profited from improper use of depositors' funds, and we want that money returned to Lincoln," said Timothy Ryan, director

of the federal agency. The alleged transactions detailed in the case include the purchase by an American Continental subsidiary of the Hotel Pontchartrain in Detroit and its subsequent resale at an inflated price to a limited partnership that included Mr Keating and his associates.

Regulators contend that Lincoln financed the purchase without sufficient underwriting and continued to pour funds into the money-losing facility while permitting the partners to take tax write-offs.

The order also seeks recovery of \$12.3 million in losses that regulators say Lincoln suffered from the misuse of American Continental's employee stock ownership plan. The plan borrowed money from Lincoln to finance the purchase of American Continental stock from Mr Keating and others. The agency also claims

Mr Keating caused losses to Lincoln of \$4.4 million in the purchase of 1,000 acres of desert land near Phoenix. Mr Ryan said the government's action was meant to go beyond recoveries of funds.

The action seeks to obtain from Mr Keating a credible account of his assets by requiring him to produce an audited statement of his assets within five days. It also requires him to notify the agency two days before he transfers money or assets worth more than \$5,000.

For several months, Mr Keating has claimed that his personal resources are running low and that he has fallen behind on house payments. Nevertheless, he frequently stays at high-priced hotels when he visits Washington.

"Mr Keating has been saying to the press and the public that he is broke, and we just don't believe

that," Mr Ryan said. The government has issued a temporary cease-and-desist order prohibiting Mr Keating from transferring any funds or assets outside the United States.

Mr Ryan said the agency wanted to freeze Mr Keating's assets, but decided against it after the California judge who will preside over this action rejected a similar request in another action.

The agency is also seeking to ban Mr Keating and others from serving on a bank or savings and loan union whose deposits are insured by the government. It also wants them removed from their posts at American Continental.

While Ryan described the case as "the most significant enforcement action" the agency has brought, it still pales next to the \$1.1 billion civil racketeering case brought last year by the Resolution Trust against

Mr Keating and others. Bradley Boland, a spokesman for Mr Keating, said he was baffled by the lawsuit and that it duplicated actions by Resolution Trust.

"The world is turning upside down, the government is spending taxpayers' money on duplicative efforts and they are trying to get blood from a turnip," Mr Boland said. In recent months, Mr Keating has hit back at the government, claiming that his funds have been exhausted by the constant need to defend himself in court and blaming regulators for the losses at Lincoln, which the government now says total \$2.2 billion.

The five other American Continental officials facing charges along with Mr Keating include his son Charles and his sons-in-law, Robert Hubbard and Robert Wurzelbacher. *New York Times*

Mr Parsons said the pharmaceutical wholesale business had suffered from problems, mainly relating to reduced business after the introduction of the UniChem share scheme, as pharmacists were induced away with shares.

He added: "We can now focus our enhanced resources on our remaining core businesses."

The pharmaceutical wholesale business made a pre-tax profit of £2.5 million in the year to end-September 1989, on turnover of £185.5 million. Cash balances, borrowings and intra-group indebtedness amounted to about £17.1 million. Pre-tax profits in the six-month period to end-March stood at £900,000, on turnover of £93.6 million.

MacCarthy's shares rose 9p to 189p on the news.

Tokyo shares sink to year's lowest close

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to year's
est close

Japanese to open £65m car components venture

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NIPPONDENSO, the Japanese motor components manufacturer, is leading a joint venture that will spend £65 million on a factory in Telford, Shropshire. The plant will be the biggest single investment so far in the new town.

Fiat's Magneti Marelli vehicle components division will have a 25 per cent stake in the venture, which is expected to create 160 jobs, rising to 450 within five years.

The factory, which is due to start production of car heaters and air conditioning units by mid-1992, will be within easy reach of the south Derbyshire car plant being built by Toyota, which is Nippondenso's main customer worldwide.

About half the production

of the new factory is expected to go to the Toyota plant. The plan is to produce about 800,000 car heaters and air conditioning units annually at Telford.

Ron Firman, general manager of Nippondenso UK, believes the number of air conditioning units produced for European cars will double over the next five years. He said: "Everybody is going for more car comforts today."

Nippondenso, which claims world leadership in both air conditioners and heaters, supplies most other Japanese car makers.

Nissan is already producing cars in Britain, in the North-east, but Honda also has plans for British manufacturing.

Nippondenso is also a supplier to a wide range of

European car makers including in Britain, Rover, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce. Among the others are Mercedes-Benz, Audi, BMW, Saab Scania and Volvo.

In two consequential deals Nippondenso and Marelli are each taking stakes in a subsidiary of the other. Nippondenso will have 25 per cent of Borletti Climatizzazione, Marelli's air conditioning division.

At the same time, Marelli will take a similar stake in N D Marston, Nippondenso's radiators subsidiary, which is based in Britain and was formerly IMI Radiators.

In addition to the main factory investment, £3 million is being spent on acquiring the freehold of the 53-acre site at Hadley Park. The plant,

covering 330,000 sq ft, is attracting a £2.2 million grant from the trade and industry department.

The new plant will bring the number of Japanese companies established at Telford to a total of 20. Some of the bigger manufacturing operations are those of Maxell in audio tapes and discs, Ricoh in photo copiers, Epson in computer printers and NEC in electronic products.

It makes the area one of the biggest concentrations of Japanese interests alongside regions like South Wales and Scotland.

Telford had an unemployment rate of 22 per cent in 1985 but this has been reduced to about 5.5 per cent as new investment has been drawn into the town.

Peace dividend calculations put on hold for the duration



KENNETH FLEET

With the powerful Iraqi army breathing fire in the Middle East and Iraq invading parallels with Nazi Germany in the 1930s, the debate on the size of the "peace dividend" and how it should be spent has, not surprisingly, dried up.

When it is resumed, the core problem of identifying who our future enemies might be should be less difficult. The peace dividend also may be less than even the cautious Tom King's *Options for Change* implied and spending on defence equipment more than manufacturers were steeling themselves to expect.

Calculations of the dividend are based on the disintegration of the Soviet empire, the peaceful intentions of President Mikhail Gorbachev and the withdrawal of American forces from Europe.

President George Bush's resolute response to Iraq's aggression has demonstrated that the United States still accepts an international policing role in sensitive areas where peace and American interests are threatened.

But Americans have been asking themselves more often why 250 million of them should protect 410 million prosperous Europeans. Even more telling are the projections that in 30 years the American non-white population will have more than doubled to 115 million and soon after that Americans of European descent will be in a minority.

Demographic forces will reinforce America's basic tendency toward isolation and protectionism and Europe will need to look to its own security.

Meanwhile President Saddam Hussein may conceivably outlast President Gorbachev. Both Iraq and the Soviet Union have military strength. The Soviet Union is still building 10 submarines a year and maintaining its sophisticated weapon systems. But the basic difference is that the Russians do not intend currently using them.

They also understand, as the West does, that you cannot ramp up new high-technology systems to meet sudden emergencies; you need deliberately and constantly to maintain and develop them.

Moreover electronics, the key technology in defence, is also fundamental for virtually all modern industry to understand and apply.

Post the invasion of Kuwait, Mr King and his defence ministry mandarins should be revising their earlier thinking.

This would lead to a less pessimistic City assessment of at least some defence stocks, especially GEC, where defence still accounts for a fifth of profits, and in a technological sense, sustains much else. Rolls-Royce and Dowty.

Multi-faceted deal

If a prize were offered to the best salesman in England, one of the favourites to win it would be John Asprey, the key figure in Aspreys' remarkable success over the last ten years. He would certainly receive the vote of overseas buyers who are responsible for about two-thirds of Aspreys' glittering business.

In the year to March 31, the company had sales of £75.3 million and made profits before tax of £21.9 million. Even in Bond Street it takes exceptional management skills to achieve profit margins of this order. The Mappin & Webb Group, which includes Garrard, the Crown Jeweller, and is owned by Asprey, made £5 million on sales of £36.2 million over roughly the same period.

The logic of putting Mappin & Webb into Asprey under John Asprey, which Asprey shareholders formally voted for yesterday, is mouth-wateringly obvious. If he can raise margins at Mappin & Webb and Garrard only half way to the Asprey level, Asprey and Sears will be skipping all the way to the bank.

It is a deal everyone is happy with except possibly the other minority Asprey shareholders who have had very little say in the matter. The deal has several interesting facets. It also has a history. Just over ten years ago, in May 1980, Asprey received an unwanted takeover bid from a joint company owned by Dunhill and a former United Arab Emirates ambassador to the Court of St James.

His Excellency Mahdi Al-Tajer is a man of evident wealth, taste and some misfortune. He owns the fine Palladian Mereworth castle in Kent but Dropmore, another of his magnificent properties,

was severely damaged by fire. An exhibition at Christie's early in January revealed a collection of some of the finest work of goldsmiths and silversmiths from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries.

Mahdi Al-Tajer and Dunhill were not alone in coveting Aspreys. The late Sir Charles Clore saw it as the jewel for his own crown and it was with Sears' help - Clore bought 20 per cent of the shares - that Asprey saw off the bid.

Sears' stake, which was later increased to 25.45 per cent, has proved hugely profitable and the relationship between the two companies has remained friendly.

The Asprey family, to guarantee its independence in future, borrowed money to take its shareholding from 40 per cent to a controlling 50.7 per cent. The horror of losing control remains.

Merging Asprey and Mappin-Garrard and leaving the Aspreys with voting control has inspired some near fireworks from Aspreys' advisers, the deft George Magan and his talented Hambro Magan niche players. Asprey is paying £75 million for the Mappin & Webb Group with an unquoted participating preference share.

This pps is a rare, possibly unique, form of paper that provides Sears with a 38.5 per cent interest in the merged company's earnings while leaving its stake in the ordinary capital at 25.45 per cent; and reduces the Asprey family's interest in the earnings to 41.8 per cent, while leaving its holding in the ordinary shares at the critical figure of 50.7 per cent.

The deal is also a coup for Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears. With Sears under some pressure and the object of bid speculation, he might have chosen to sell Mappin-Garrard for cash. He would certainly have received a higher price and perhaps several marks for unbounding.

But he has sensibly preferred to take on board the Asprey skills and prepare a poison pill. The agreement with Asprey includes an undertaking by Sears and members of the Asprey family that in the event of their wishing to sell any shares in the merged company they will offer them first to the other.

This shuts out a bid for Asprey (to the chagrin of some minority shareholders) and it would be hard for an unwanted bidder for Sears to swallow.

All not lost on private client front

Last Saturday I began this column with the funeral assertion that "traditional private client stock-broking is dying". Private client firms are suffering in different degrees and the International Stock Exchange seems either unwilling or unable to do much to encourage private investors to arrest the decline.

The ISE's own examination of the securities business, released on Thursday, contains nothing to change my medical opinion.

As *The Times* observed yesterday:

"Unless a drastic rethink is undertaken, or banks construct an alternative, half the function of the exchange may disappear within this decade."

It cannot all be left to the government and a paperless share transfer system. All is not lost; it rarely is.

A reader in Arundel who began by saying I was "wide of the mark", had this to say about his own needs and the way they were met:

"Following an advertisement, I now deal with a firm in the City, having found Sharelink impossible to reach in a busy

time. Last account, I telephoned, free of charge, and gave six selling orders, at best, and had them reported within half an hour.

"I for one do not require a better service, and coupled with the City coverage on *Ceeba* and *Oracle*, the Stock Exchange is still fun and an excellent interest."

It does not seem much to ask for nor beyond the wit and capacity of stock-broking firms to offer, even if it does require embracing concepts like marketing and efficiency.

Nestlé under pressure

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE strength of the Swiss franc and falling commodity prices are likely to affect profits at Nestlé, the world's largest food group.

In the first six months of this year, Swiss-based Nestlé's profits rose from SwFr 2.06 billion (£820.7 million) to SwFr 2.41 billion.

Consolidated group turnover was steady at SwFr 22.7 billion.

More financial details about the half year will be made available in September, when the company releases a half-year profit-and-loss account and a balance sheet.

Uncertainty surrounding the Swiss franc has prevented the company from making a profit forecast for the year.

The company said in a statement: "At this time, no reliable forecast is possible. The company expects, however, that the effect of the various measures, as well as the generally positive evolution of its business, will at least compensate for the currency factor."

The stagnation in sales came partly as a result of lower commodity prices, including coffee, one of the company's main businesses.

The company's products include Nescafé and Neslé chocolates. Nestlé also has a strong presence in Britain following its £2.5 billion takeover of Rowntree, the chocolate manufacturer, in 1988.



Helmut Maucher, chairman, outlook uncertain

Nestlé gave no indication of business development at Rowntree.

Other than Rowntree, Nestlé has made several recent acquisitions. These include Buitoni, the Italian food group, and the Carriss Brands

Three months ago, the company decided to shelve plans for a rights issue because of uncertain stock market conditions.

HK banks to lower prime rate

From LULU YU
IN HONG KONG

HONG Kong's prime lending rate is to be lowered half a percentage point to 10.5 per cent on Monday. The move, led by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation and Standard Chartered Bank, follows a drop in the interbank market rates, and a lowering of the American prime rate last month.

The colony's interest rates follow those of America because the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the American dollar.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong Association of Banks said the fall was prompted by lower rates in the local money market and a slowdown in inflation.

Hong Kong banks last raised their prime lending rate by one percentage point to 11 per cent in April in a bid to attract more Hong Kong dollar deposits. In the past few months, after the banks twice raised the prime rate, the gap between loans and deposits has narrowed significantly, and inflation has eased from 10 per cent at the beginning of the year to 9.1 per cent in June.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong's domestic exports declined 1 per cent in June over last year.

Hong Kong recorded a trade surplus of HK\$5.2 billion (£539 million) for the first six months.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	%	P/E
74	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
75	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
76	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
77	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
78	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
79	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
80	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
81	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
82	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
83	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
84	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
85	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
86	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
87	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
88	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
89	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
90	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
91	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
92	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
93	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
94	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
95	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
96	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
97	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
98	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
99	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
100	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	%	P/E
101	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
102	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
103	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
104	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
105	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
106	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
107	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
108	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
109	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
110	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
111	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
112	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
113	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
114	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
115	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
116	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
117	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
118	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
119	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
120	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12

THIRD MARKET

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	%	P/E
121	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
122	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
123	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
124	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
125	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
126	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
127	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
128	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
129	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
130	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12

COMMODITIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	%	P/E
131	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
132	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
133	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
134	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
135	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
136	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
137	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
138	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
139	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
140	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	%	P/E
141	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
142	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10.12
143	10.12	9.85	British American Tobacco	10.12	0.50	4.94	10.12	10

COMMODITY & ENERGY

BG Energy	70,689,000	1,000
EPM Resources	70,689,000	1,000
Newmont Global Resources	70,689,000	1,000
Hill Samuel Natl Resources	70,689,000	1,000
Jones Coal Bld & Gen	70,689,000	1,000
Legal & General Admnl Rsr	70,689,000	1,000
Louisiana Power Co.	70,689,000	1,000

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

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WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for +150 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

WATER			
146	Anger Water	246	247
147	Anger Water	247	248
148	Anger Water	248	249
149	Anger Water	249	250
150	Anger Water	250	251
151	Anger Water	251	252
152	Anger Water	252	253
153	Anger Water	253	254
154	Anger Water	254	255
155	Anger Water	255	256
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157	Anger Water	257	258
158	Anger Water	258	259
159	Anger Water	259	260
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164	Anger Water	264	265
165	Anger Water	265	266
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167	Anger Water	267	268
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235	Anger Water	335	336
236	Anger Water	336	337
237	Anger Water	337	338
238	Anger Water	338	339
239	Anger Water	339	340
240	Anger Water		

1990		Price	Change	Vol
Index	Company	Price	Change	Vol
229	178 Johnson & Johnson	205	+0.8	57.3
229	179 Amgen	185	194	+
229	180 Amgen	185	194	+
229	181 Amgen (Hony)	185	194	+
229	182 Amgen	185	194	+
229	183 Amgen	185	194	+
229	184 Amgen	185	194	+
229	185 Amgen	185	194	+
229	186 Amgen	185	194	+
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229	254 Amgen	185	194	+
229	255 Amgen	185	194	+
229</				

• Ex dividend • Ex all • Forecast dividend • Interim payment passed • Price at suspension • Dividend and yield exclude a special payment • Pre-merger figures • Forecast earnings • Ex other • Ex rights • Ex scrip or shares with a Top Line. No shares.

COMPAGNIE
GENERALE
DE BOURSE

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COMPAGNIE
GENERALE
DE BOURSE
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MONNAIES
OR
ARGENT

VOYAGES

EC to crack down on transaction charges

The lesson is, when changing money on the Continent, do not be confused by the signs outside the bureaux. Shop around. And those who argue may be offered a better rate of exchange.

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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WEEKEND MONEY

Home owner wins survey court case

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE High Court victory this week for a home owner who found that her £300,000 home was infested with death-watch beetles is encouraging for anyone who has bought property and then found serious defects.

Pamela Syrett, of Wootton, Hampshire, was awarded more than £98,000 against a firm of surveyors that had produced a "negligent survey" on a 17th century farmhouse. In addition to the infestation, the property had severe damp and movement in some walls.

The most remarkable feature of the case is not the amount awarded but the speed with which it has been dealt. The defects were not discovered until October 1988. Home buyers who discover problems after they move in can face a battle over several years before their claims reach the High Court. Many are forced to give up because the legal costs threaten to exceed the cost of the repairs.

Mrs Syrett had not paid for a full structural survey before agreeing to buy the property. She had asked for a limited survey only on the property.

Home buyers can choose from three main types of survey or valuation. Anyone who is borrowing money to make the purchase will be required by the lender to pay for a valuation for the lender to discover if the property is adequate security for the loan. About 85 per cent of buyers rely on these reports alone, although lenders recommend a more detailed inspection, especially for properties that are no longer covered by the National House-Building Council's ten-year guarantee on new houses.

Until the mid-Seventies, buyers were not given a copy



PAULA YOUNG

of these valuation reports. Since then, lenders have tended to forward a copy accompanied by a disclaimer and the recommendation that a survey be carried out. Because of this, homebuyers until 1982 were not considered as having a contract with the valuer, and the right to sue if the report was negligent.

The turning-point was the Yisani case. It was decided that the defects in their property were so serious that there was a duty to the borrower. Subsequently, two cases have established that borrowers at the lower end of the housing market should be able to sue a valuer when major faults were not spotted by the valuer.

But it is still not easy to sue on a valuation report. Where there is a direct contract it should be less difficult. With major defects though, the

insurance company providing the surveyor's indemnity policy will be involved. They come in when a claim exceeds the surveyor's excess. If the repairs are likely to amount to more than the sum that the surveyor is responsible for, the insurance company is likely to tell the surveyor to admit nothing and fight it through the courts.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors offers an arbitration scheme, operated by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Decisions are binding and since it started in June 1988 only 21 cases have been referred to the arbitrators. It covers all firms that have at least one chartered surveyor as a partner or director.

Valuation reports are basic and not much time is spent inspecting the property. The

comprehensive report. This can be limited if the surveyor is not allowed to take up carpets or to enter the roof space. But in such circumstances if the surveyor suspects defects a further inspection should be recommended.

While a valuation inspection might only take 30 minutes, the home buyers report could involve a two-hour site visit and full structural surveys can take up to two days, depending on the size and age of the property.

At the Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, Chris Rispin, assistant chief valuation surveyor, said that people who had bought a house often had no money for unexpected repairs or legal fees.

He said the society tried to resolve problems as soon as possible.

"Some people regard a survey as some form of insurance. But it can be a long and tortuous battle to make a claim."

An alternative is for homebuyers to consider structural defects insurance, which pays out in the event of serious defects being discovered.

Mr Rispin said that it was possible for dry rot to grow very quickly in warm weather. A surveyor could miss a tiny area of rot in a bathroom and within six months it could spread to the whole of the upstairs.

Those buyers who arrange a valuation or more detailed report through a building society cannot use the RICS arbitration scheme, nor can they take complaints about faulty surveys to the building society ombudsman. The rules of the scheme preclude complaints arising before a loan is advanced. The lender should, however, be prepared to help them with any claim.

valuer does not inspect the roof space, take up carpets or examine drains unless serious defects are suspected. Then a further report would be recommended. The valuer provides a brief written report that does not detail any minor defects.

The home buyers' report is intended as an interim stage. It gives more detail than the valuation but is less comprehensive than a structural survey. It answers pre-set questions. It should indicate whether the price being paid is in line with the market for that type of property.

It will cover the parts of a house that are readily visible or accessible, including the roof space. Any major or suspected defect will be listed.

Full structural surveys involve the technical inspection and the production of a com-

Britons going abroad insure against kidnap and ransom

By CHARLES KEYSLEY

AMONG the millions of Britons going abroad this year are thousands who possess a specialised and confidential form of protection - kidnap and ransom insurance, or K&R.

Distinct from standard holiday and business travel cover, where reputable policies remain valid through hijacking incidents but do not normally include directly-related payouts, K&R provides a package of tailored benefits and crisis management measures, including ransom payment.

These are designed "to reduce not only the severe disruptions that will arise following a kidnap, but to minimise the chances of it happening in the first place", says Bill Davis, a founder director of Cassidy, Davis, the underwriting agents at Lloyd's.

The firm, which is prominent in the market, reckons it handles more than 60 per cent of the generally static premium income for K&R globally. This comprises between \$60 million and \$70 million, made up of individual payments that can range from £100 to £250,000 a year

"depending on the risk, who you represent and where you are going."

High-risk territories change year by year. Current "areas of real concern" include Lebanon, where 16 Westerners are believed to be held hostage; parts of Africa, notably Sudan and Mozambique; Colombia; Iran; and Iraq.

Control Risks, the leading international security specialist, has logged 1,370 kidnaps plus 90 kidnap attempts all over the world since 1987. The majority, 1,181, have been for ransom.

The remaining 189 are classified "miscellaneous" and include politically-motivated abductions.

Incidents range from impromptu snatches to obtain food from shopping baskets - relatively common in Third World countries - to well-planned operations involving demands for \$20 million. Most victims are released alive.

Cassidy, Davis says that kidnap is "simply a business risk" that, among others, corporate risk managers now take into account.

Although industrialists,

company owners and their relatives have figured frequently among the victims, the most junior expatriate can be just as much a target as a senior director.

Advice on avoiding wealth displays and set routines is, therefore, part of primary prevention measures that the premium buys.

Security consultants are retained by all K&R insurers, which include Marchant, the American International Group, the Professional Indemnity Agency, and Chubb.

Also covered are rewards for information on the kidnappers, and reimbursement of the ransom payment - providing legal and policy requirements have been observed - as well as the fees of expert negotiators (who manage to reduce the demands in more than 80 per cent of cases), plus associated travel and hotel costs.

Partly to minimise fraud temptations, nobody can be insured beyond their own net worth. The "standard limit" is £2 million, says Hogg Insurance Brokers, which has a department dealing solely with K&R.

RISING OIL PRICES

One of the consequences of recent events in the Gulf has been the sharp increase in oil prices.

Save & Prosper's Energy Industries Fund is one of the few unit trusts which specifically invests in oil and gas shares. The portfolio currently is 50% invested in the UK, 16% in Europe and 13% in the USA. The largest 10 holdings are:

British Petroleum	Monument Oil and Gas
Shell	Norsk Hydro
Clyde Petroleum	Ultramar
Cairn Energy	Elf-Aquitaine
Renaissance Energy	Goal Petroleum

We currently recommend that up to 5% of portfolios be invested in shares of energy-related companies. Energy Industries Fund has consistently been one of the leading unit trusts invested in the sector*.

For further information about Energy Industries Fund, telephone us today on our free Moneyline: 0800 282 101. *Source: Micropal.

FREE MONEYLINE 0800 282 101
9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK



THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and past performance is not a guarantee of future success. Save & Prosper Group Ltd. is a member of IMRO and Lantoro.

With the Woolwich Fixed Rate Mortgage, the only thing that moves is you.

With ever-fluctuating mortgage rates, budgeting to meet the cost of your monthly payments can be difficult.

13.65%
(14.6% APR)

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If you're borrowing £20,000 or more, you could find the Woolwich Fixed Rate Mortgage an attractive proposition.

Whatever happens to interest rates, your rate is guaranteed to stay at 13.65% (14.6% APR) for the next two years.

Making your finances reassuringly predictable and putting you back in control.

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Woolwich Building Society, Dept FRM, FREEPOST (DT98), Bexleyheath, Kent DA7 6BR.

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Please send me full details of Woolwich Fixed Rate Mortgages. I am looking for a mortgage of £..... (No stamp required).

Signed.....

Full Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Telephone.....

T90 **WOOLWICH**
BUILDING SOCIETY

A first charge over your property will be required as security. A suitable endowment policy or pension plan will also be required. All mortgages subject to status and valuation. The APR quoted is fixed for two years, after which it will be varied to the normal Woolwich endowment rate (variable) prevailing at the time. Rates as at July 1990. A written quotation is available from your local branch or from Dept. L5, Corporate Headquarters, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 6BR.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Law change makes wills cheaper

By MARGARET DIBBEN

BANKS will soon be able to offer a comprehensive will processing service more cheaply than possible in the past. A change to the law coming into force this autumn will allow banks, building societies and insurance companies to apply for probate on behalf of their clients.

Until then, only solicitors or the personal executor of a will can apply for probate, a legal process that is necessary before the estate can be distributed to the beneficiaries.

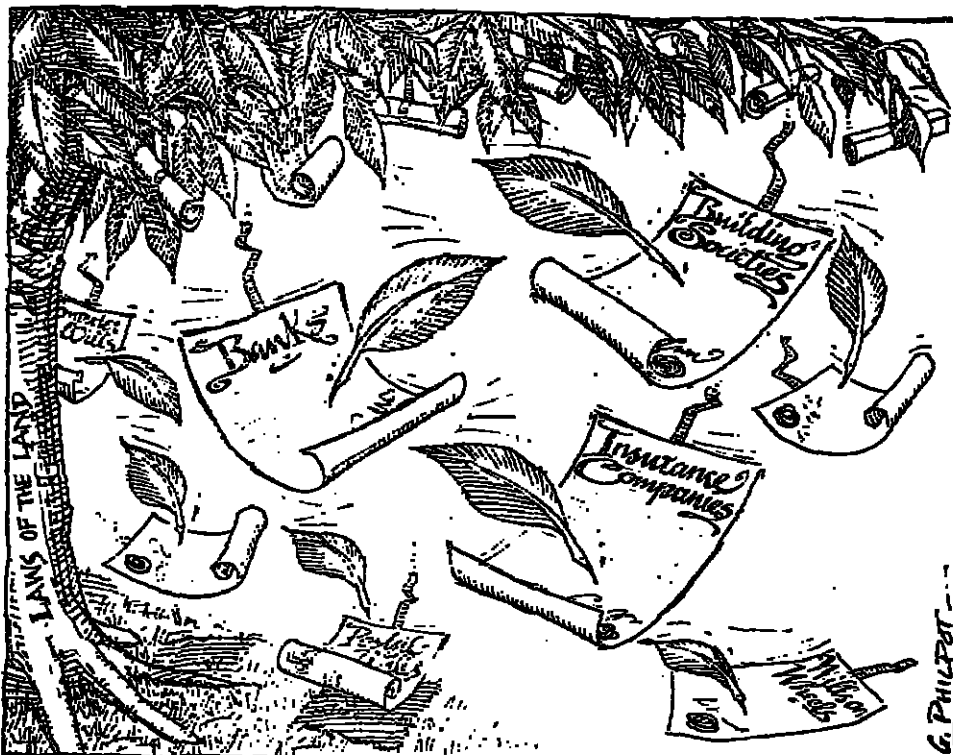
National Westminster Bank will be the first to take advantage of this relaxation and has already started a will writing service for customers in Bristol, Manchester, the City of London and the Solent.

By the end of the year the service will cover the whole branch network in England and Wales.

Ray Anstice, deputy head of NatWest's financial and investment services, said: "We would expect the time taken to administer the average estate to be less when the new law is implemented."

NatWest charges £40 to draw up a straightforward family will for one person or £60 for a couple. Codicils can be added for £25. Within a week the completed will is posted to the customer to be signed and witnessed.

Mr Anstice believes that 90 per cent of wills are simple enough to be covered by this fee. However, it is compulsory to appoint NatWest Bank as executor when drawing up a will. The cost of this service is 5 per cent of the first £50,000



of the estate. 3 per cent of the next £50,000 and 2 per cent above £100,000. Managers have discretion to reduce the bill if an estate is quick to administer.

Among the other banks, only Midland offers a will preparation service. The cost is £50 for a single will and £80 for a joint will, and customers do not have to appoint the bank as executors.

One reason why many people avoid writing a will is fear of the cost, even though an estimate is available upon request. Solicitors' charges for writing wills vary enormously from about £20 to £200.

Gillian Jenkins, a qualified

barrister although she has never practised, has set up a will writing service called Wills on Wheels from her home in Barnes, London.

She said: "Before I started I telephoned 12 solicitors in Richmond, East Sheen and Putney to find out how much they charged. I was horrified at how little it was." Some charged only £20, a rate not high enough to make a profit.

Mrs Jenkins started by charging £35 but had to raise the price to £50 for a single will and £75 for a couple, a price she expects to cover all but the most complicated wills.

New will writing services

are springing up around the country. Hambro Legal Protection is introducing a telephone will drafting service at the beginning of November. Charges will be approximately £40 for the first will and possibly £20 for a second mirror will.

Inheritance Assured, a postal will service, plans a publicity campaign in September to widen its market. A single will costs £34.44 and a partner's will can be added for an extra £17.25.

Fraser Marr, the independent financial adviser, charge £35 for a simple will, more for complex ones. With its own trustee section, Fraser Marr is

already able to apply for probate.

Quill, a franchise operation, provides franchisees with a computer and software, which they claim is unable to write an invalid will. Their 150 franchisees, just one of whom is a retired solicitor, handle about 2,000 wills a week.

They are recommended to charge £40 for a single will and £60 for a double will.

Anyone can set up as a will writer and estate administrator without any qualifications or experience. Although they cannot apply for probate, they can easily pay a solicitor to do it for them and pass on the cost to the beneficiaries.

The government rejected the Law Society's plea for a regulatory regime to cover these people.

Walter Merricks, a spokesman for the Law Society said: "The opportunities for behaviour in a way which is not entirely appropriate towards the beneficiaries are quite substantial. The opportunities for actual fraud and dishonesty are quite considerable." Unlike dealing with a solicitor, there is no compensation fund.

The Courts and Legal Services Bill failed to complete its passage through the House of Commons before parliament's summer recess and now has to wait until October. It will receive royal assent before the next session begins.

Legal Aid is available for making a will to people who comply with the financial limits, and are disabled, single parents or over 70 years old.

The Law Society publishes a booklet *Making a will won't kill you*, which costs 60p.

BRIEFINGS

■ BRADFORD & Bingley Building Society will now help its members to buy used cars. The society will make car loans of up to £7,500 repayable over one to three years on used cars, and four years for new vehicles. The interest rate is 26.9 per cent on loans up to £1,500, and 1 per cent less for larger sums. A guide to buying used cars is included. The society has also introduced an instant telephone quotation service for buyers.

■ Chase de Vere Investments has launched its first fund investing only in new unit trusts and investment trusts. The New Trust Fund, open to investors with at least £2,000 to spare, is aiming at long-term capital growth. A survey commissioned for the launch found that new trusts have outperformed existing trusts by nearly 89 per cent in their first three years. There is a 5 per cent initial charge, and an annual charge of 1.95 per cent.

■ Abbey National has added two new interest bands to its instant access Five Star Charity account, taking the top gross rate to 15 per cent on £500,000. A rate of 14.75 per cent has been introduced for sums over £25,000, and the maximum investment level has been raised to £2 million. Interest rates start at 12.45 per cent on £500.

■ Bank of Scotland has joined the LINK national cash network, giving its customers the choice of thousands more cash dispensers. The bank's 331 automated teller machines takes the network's total to 4,600, including 800 in Scotland.

■ The new business expansion scheme season kicks off later this month with the launch of BESRES V, the fifth

residential BES to be backed by Sun Life Investment Management Services. The scheme gives investors the choice of several investment areas, including university campuses. Between £2,000 and £40,000 may be invested. There is an initial charge of 6 per cent, and an annual management charge of 1 per cent. The scheme opens on August 24.

■ Nationwide Anglia Building Society is launching a 180-day version of TaxFree Option, its new onshore savings account, which will offer a top interest rate of 15.5 per cent before tax. TaxFree Option already offers instant or 90-day access for customers. Interest rates on the 180-day option start at 14 per cent on £500.

■ Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society's second offshore investment account, C&G Guernsey Bond, goes on offer next week with a top rate of 15.5 per cent gross on £10,000 or more. The top rate is paid on money locked away for a year. The gross rate on a six-month term is being offered at 15.25 per cent.

■ NPI is launching a guaranteed investment bond on Monday, paying 14.66 per cent gross over one year on at least £2,500. Over five years, the equivalent return on the bond is 13.73 per cent. The bond is a single premium endowment assurance, providing annual income in the form of guaranteed cash bonuses over one to five years.

■ Barclays is giving away £100,000 of unit trusts in a prize draw to help highlight its range of financial services. Customers who complete a questionnaire on their financial needs have a chance of

winning £1,000 invested in the Barclays Unicorn General Trust. The competition begins on Thursday and closes on October 1.

■ Leeds Permanent has unveiled a new mortgage package, fixing the rate at 13.50 per cent for two years. The fixed rate loan, which carries an arrangement fee of £100, has been calculated to undercut the market and stimulate new interest among potential buyers. The mortgage must be linked to an endowment or pension plan.

■ Equity & Law has launched a 13.5 per cent fixed rate mortgage as part of a new package for homebuyers. Borrowers can cut their payments to 9.625 per cent for each of the first two years, rolling up the balance to be added to payments later on. The company will refund valuation fees for applications received before the end of August, saving buyers up to £100.

■ Bristol & West Building Society has introduced a security and growth bond guaranteeing 8 per cent above the society's gross equivalent ordinary share rate. Half of contributions starting at £2,000, will be placed in the society's secure investment account, paying a new top rate of 18.67 per cent. The other 50 per cent goes into an Eagle Star investment bond.

■ A new fixed rate mortgage which allows borrowers to lock into a rate of 13.5 per cent for two years is to be launched on Monday by Leeds Permanent Building Society. The loan must be linked to an endowment or pension plan and has an arrangement fee of £100. Borrowers who redeem in the first year will be charged three months' interest.

IBS plan protects against job loss

By JON ASHWORTH

A NEW-STYLE plan that protects employees against the risk of losing their jobs goes on offer later this month. The plan, launched by the Independent Benefit Society, will pay up to £1,000 a month tax-free to employees who lose their jobs, and provide a full counselling service to help put them back on their feet.

The plan is thought to be the first of its kind offered by a friendly society, which combines cash and counselling. Protection is purchased in £25 blocks or units at a cost of £1.80 a month each. The final bill depends on the number of units held, along with residence and occupation.

The minimum holding of eight units would provide an income of £200 a month, in return for a minimum bill of £14.40 a month or £172.80 a year. The maximum number of units which may be held initially is 20, giving a monthly income of £500. This may be increased in stages to a total of 40 units, giving a maximum of £1,000 a month for up to a year.

Ken Thomas, general secretary of the society, which is

based in Birmingham, said a similar plan had been offered since 1931, but the cash benefits had been substantially improved. Unlike other income protection plans, the IBS scheme pays out cash "with no strings attached", leaving the recipient free to use it as they wish.

The former scheme, which has 2,000 subscribers, pays a maximum weekly benefit of £65 for no more than 30 weeks. Mr Thomas said the availability of counselling helped distinguish the plans from others on the market. Cash payments and premiums will be increased each year in line with inflation.

Counselling will be provided by the Forum for Occupational Counselling and Unemployment Services, Focus, a Harfordshire company, which has advised over 75,000 people throughout Britain in the eight years since it was established.

Details are available from: Independent Benefit Society, IBS House, 105 Alcester Road South, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7HN. Tel: (021) 444 4214.

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It derives from our ability to achieve consistently superior performance for our investors, year upon year.

An outstanding record

Bishopsgate currently manage four international unit trusts.

In a recent survey of the performance of over 1,000 unit trusts, only 14 funds appeared in the first quartile (top 25%) of their sector in every twelve month period, February to February, between 1985 and 1990.*

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Over longer periods, too, our performance and consistency has been notable.

Bishopsgate International Unit Trust and Bishopsgate Progressive Unit Trust have held first and second positions respectively in their sector over 10 years since 1980.* In fact investors in our unit trusts over a ten year period have seen a remarkable increase in the

value of their investment.

£1,000 invested in Bishopsgate International would now be worth £9,394 and in Bishopsgate Progressive £8,687.*

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Bishopsgate's philosophy has always been to invest worldwide.

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The added scope and flexibility this gives our highly experienced managers has been one of the major reasons for our investment success.

Experienced and capable

Bishopsgate Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of J. Rothschild

Investment Management which has assets under management or advice exceeding £1.5bn.

We are members of the two regulatory bodies relevant to our business, IMRO and LAUTRO, as well as of the Unit Trust Association.

In the current climate many investors will attach a special importance to the expertise, stability and professionalism that Bishopsgate can amply provide.

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A major opportunity

As part of the planned reconstruction of our ultimate parent organisation, J. Rothschild Holdings plc, Bishopsgate will shortly be announcing a major new opportunity for investors to benefit, on exceptionally attractive terms, from our proven investment skills.

To obtain early information we strongly recommend all serious investors interested in sustained long-term growth to contact David Wood, Bishopsgate Progressive Unit Trust Management Company Limited, 15, St. James's Place, London SW1A 1NW. Telephone: 071-493 8111.

Bishopsgate Management. Our record speaks for itself

Bishopsgate Progressive Unit Trust Management Company Limited (Bishopsgate Management) is a subsidiary of J. Rothschild Investment Management Limited.

*Source: Mervin to July 31st 1990 offer to bid, income reinvested. Over five years the value would be £2,358 and £2,885 respectively. ** Hargreaves Lansdown Asset Management, Bristol, April 1990. ** Financial Times, 14th April 1990.

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WEEKEND MONEY

LETTERS

ICS should review and update £48,000 compensation ceiling

From Mr E. E. Hunt
Sir, I am emboldened by Mr Walker's advice in Weekend Money not to be afraid to ask what might seem a stupid question ("may be... there is something wrong"). He goes on, in his article "Self-defence for the investor" to point out that the Investors Compensation Scheme has a ceiling of £48,000.

That ceiling, Mr Walker, was first set in 1987. Why, in 1990, has it not been raised to reflect the effect of subsequent inflation? Elsewhere on the same page, the chairman of the scheme, Mr Ray, says that the scheme is reliant on

"efficient firms and their customers". The SIB has no compunction in annually raising its own charges to those firms - to meet salary increases to Mr Walker and his staff.

Should not Mr Ray be demanding, if not annual hikes in the scheme ceiling, at least regular reviews to reflect the amounts needed to be invested to achieve an equivalent return in real terms, on £48,000 in 1987?

Yours faithfully,
E. E. HUNT,
Shaddehows House,
Nayland,
Colchester, Essex.

Postal junk means business and income

From Mr Raymond Durrant
Sir, Junk mail means business and income for the Post Office. Less junk mail means less income for the Post Office and ultimately higher postal charges for the general public.

Having to place a percentage of one's mail straight in

the waste paper basket, seems a relatively small price to pay for postponing the occasional inevitable increase in postal charges.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND DURRANT,
195 Marshalswick Lane,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Pensioner loses out in 'secure societies'

From Mr Malcolm Rose FLIA
Sir, So Mr W. T. Hutton (Letters, July 28) favours the security of "our banks and building societies probably based on generations of fair dealing to customers..."

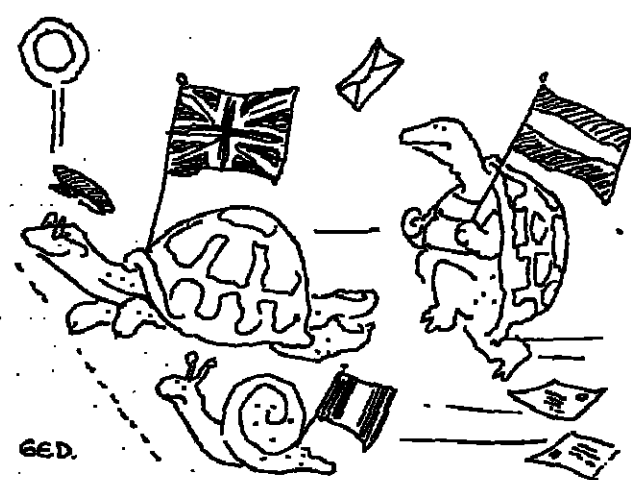
Last week I was asked to review the "investments" of an 84-year-old widow whose life savings were spread amongst a number of building societies even though her only income is the state pension. Does the "favoured security" of our banks and building societies include a guaranteed loss - after inflation? Does "fair dealing" include putting a non-taxpayer's savings into a tax-paid deposit account? Or bribing children to become passive tax-payers with Mickey Mouse money boxes and the like? Or insisting that "house buyers cash in perfectly good endowments for the societies' own product? Or trying to a single insurance company in return for inflated commissions? Or do they tie just to avoid the constraints of "best advice"?

Surely a mutual building society should act in the best interests of its members? Or am I just being old-fashioned? Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM A. ROSE,
The Funding Partnership,
Independent Financial Advisers,
33 Goodways Avenue,
Radlett, Herts.

It's an estimate and final demand from Southern Electric

From Mr Martin R. Gething
Sir, As someone who usually pays his bills by return of post, I have nevertheless been amazed how many times I have received final demands from my local electricity board, now Southern Electric plc. A recent experience amazed me more than usual.

At the beginning of June, I arranged to have my meter read, and took a day off work as Southern Electric, following standard practice, would not specify a time for the reading. One week later I received my bill, together with a final demand in the same post! At



Britons favour direct mail advertising

From the director of marketing, Royal Mail
Sir, Maurice Michaels and M. Shaw might not like direct mail advertising (Letters, July 28) - but the plain fact is that millions of Britons do.

These include the 30 million who have bought goods or services through direct mail, the 25,000-plus people who owe their jobs directly to the industry or the thousands of companies which earned some £7 billion through the medium last financial year.

Turning to the claim that direct mail is slowing our mail moving operation, nothing could be further from

reality. Our letter reliability has just been independently assessed as the best in Europe, we have recently achieved the biggest ever improvement in first class mail quality of service in a single year (nearly 4 per cent) and in an independent poll foreign nationals living in Britain said the Royal Mail is better than their postal service back home.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID J. BRECH,
Director of Marketing,
Royal Mail,
Royal Mail House,
145/166 Old Street,
London EC1,
July 30.

Seeing red as final demand arrives on same day as the bill

From Mr Martin R. Gething
Sir, As someone who usually pays his bills by return of post, I have nevertheless been amazed how many times I have received final demands from my local electricity board, now Southern Electric plc. A recent experience amazed me more than usual.

At the beginning of June, I arranged to have my meter read, and took a day off work as Southern Electric, following standard practice, would not specify a time for the reading. One week later I received my bill, together with a final demand in the same post! At

the same time as paying this bill, I made a complaint to the Office of Electricity Regulation, about this appalling example of customer relations. I have now received Southern Electric's explanation of what happened.

It appears that following my meter reading on Monday, the new bill was prepared and sent on Tuesday, and the reminder sent on Friday. Southern Electric blame the Post Office for being slow to deliver the first bill.

The "overdue account bill", printed in large red letters,

contains a threat to cut off my supply of electricity. Despite my query through Offer, Southern Electric did not attempt to explain what legal justification they would have had for such a speedy disconnection.

At this time of year, with many people away from home for a week or two at a time, I find this whole episode a sad reflection on our impersonal, computer-run utilities.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN R. GETTING,
23 Elziver Close,
Chickwell Down,
Weymouth, Dorset.

'Robbed' by refusal of personal cheque in payment for H-registration vehicle

From Mr Ronald Riggs
Sir, As the purchaser of an H-registration vehicle may I make a plea for those, like myself, who prefer to pay cash.

I've read about banker's drafts in *The Forsyte Saga* but had no occasion to use them. I had intended to offer my personal cheque.

This would not have been acceptable, I learnt at a late hour.

My bank obligingly produced one for an administration charge of £8. That would

have bought four gallons of petrol. I feel robbed!

Yours faithfully,
RONALD RIGGS,
Inez Cottage,
Wheatthamstead,
Hertfordshire,
August 1.

Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Timely report on top-up cover for drivers in US

From Lord Coleraine
Sir, May I say how timely I found your article "US juries put fly-drivers at risk" on July 21.

I have just reserved a car with Avis from Boston for a week from August 15.

On five occasions I asked for quotes, including when making the actual reservation.

On each occasion I was given the price for the week, the cost of collision damage waiver, the local taxation and the fact that mileage was unlimited.

On four of the five occasions I was given the cost of personal accident insurance.

On no occasion was I offered the cost of top-up third party insurance.

On the one occasion when I asked about third party cover I was given the information that personal accident cover was limited to \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 per claim, which could be topped up to \$1,000,000 (no explanation of what that meant).

You referred also to top-up cover offered by Top Sure, and said that Top Sure was recommended by the AA.

The AA may recommend Top Sure but when I telephoned a local office of the AA a week ago, and asked about top-up cover, they said they would send me details, but I have received nothing.

During the week I went into the London HQ office of the AA.

It took me some time to make the insurance department know what I was talking about.

Ultimately I mentioned "Top Sure" and my problem was recognised. Unfortunately they had no pamphlets or forms for Top Sure.

I have more recently spoken with Top Sure who are sending me the necessary forms etc.

It may be that this problem of inadequate cover has been identified before, but I must congratulate you on your article.

I do, however, wonder why you did not ask the question why, if cover can be topped up to \$1,000,000 it cannot be increased to the unlimited cover we are required to carry in this country?

Yours faithfully,
LORD COLERAINE,
5 Kensington Park Gardens,
London W11,
July 30.

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SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT BOX

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 37).

Stock	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+3	-1	+2	+5	+3		
2	+5	-3	+4	+1	+7		
3	+3	-2	+8	+4	+5		
4	+2	-1	+2	+8	+3		
5	+4	-1	+5	+3	+5		
6	+6	-4	+4	+2	+7		
7	+4	-3	+7	+3	+2		
8	+2	-2	+3	+6	+2		
9	+3	-2	+8	+3	+4		
10	+4	-3	+7	+2	+1		
11	+4	-4	+8	+2	+3		
12	+5	-2	+5	+3	+4		
13	+5	-4	+7	+2	+2		
14	+5	-2	+4	+2	+8		
15	+2	-3	+2	+5	+2		
16	+3	-3	+8	+3	+4		
17	+1	-2	+2	+5	+2		
18	+5	-2	+6	+3	+8		
19	+5	-2	+3	+1	+8		
20	+3	-1	+2	+6	+1		
21	+4	-1	+6	+3	+4		
22	+5	-2	+4	+1	+6		
23	+3	-2	+7	+2	+2		
24	+5	-3	+3	+1	+7		
25	+1	-2	+2	+7	+1		
26	+4	-3	+6	+4	+5		
27	+5	-1	+8	+3	+2		
28	+6	-3	+4	+2	+8		
29	+3	-3	+3	+5	+3		
30	+5	-4	+5	+1	+7		
31	+5	-1	+7	+3	+3		
32	+4	-3	+1	+1	+6		
33	+3	-2	+7	+2	+1		
34	+2	-2	+2	+5	+2		
35	+2	-3	+2	+5	+2		
36	+3	-3	+6	+1	+2		
37	+5	-4	+5	+1	+6		
38	+4	-4	+7	+3	+2		
39	+4	-3	+7	+4	+3		
40	+2	-3	+6	+1	+2		
41	+1	-2	+3	+5	+1		
42	+3	-2	+7	+3	+3		
43	+4	-3	+7	+2	+3		
44	+8	-3	+4	+1	+5		

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Current Interest Rates (variable)	Rates
Balance	
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£10,000 - £19,999	11.50% Net

The Key 90 Day Account. We're so confident it's the best, we're making a special introductory offer. Until 31st October 1990, if you open a Key 90 Day Account and then find better elsewhere, we'll return your money instantly with interest paid in full. Send the coupon with your cheque today to the FREEPOST address below. Or call into any branch of the Society.

FREEPOST

Send to Yorkshire Building Society (Department K90), FREEPOST, Building House, Wigton, BLACKBURN, Lancashire BB1 1UE.

I would like to open a Key 90 Day Account (see details on page 37) and would like to transfer my money from my existing account to this new account.

NAME IN FULL (in block letters) ADDRESS |

TOWN POSTCODE |

SIGNATURE (in block letters) DATE |

P.S. I am interested in opening your new Key 90 Day Account. Please send me details of Yorkshire Building Society. (Tick box)

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EFM Investment Trust Purchase Scheme

The Marketing Department,
Edinburgh Fund Managers plc,
4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH1 7B
Telephone: 031-226 4931

Please send me details of the EFM Investment Trust Purchase Scheme and application forms.

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Mark your card for cheaper credit

Thousands of thrifty people who have changed credit card companies to escape the new annual charges of £8 or £12, could be landed with bills of £100 or more for insurance they do not want.

Some credit cards use the same high-pressure selling techniques made familiar by mail order discount houses. Unless you put an "x" in the box, you will automatically be sent the firm's insurance, whether you need it or not.

The insurance is intended to protect you if you are out of work through redundancy, sickness or accident. Then, the policy will meet your minimum monthly payments until you are back at work. This may seem desirable insurance to have, but only if the cost has been carefully analysed.

One reader recently cut up his Barclaycard because he was annoyed by the decision to impose an £8 annual charge. He changed to a Chase Manhattan Visa, but now finds that because he did not state to the contrary he will automatically be charged £120 a year for insurance. The premium is worked out as a

percentage of his borrowing, currently the same as his £2,000 credit limit.

Chase Manhattan and some other credit providers will allow customers who unwittingly buy insurance to cancel the cover and to get their premiums back. But not all companies will.

The same inertia sales techniques are used by some other credit card companies, the financial institutions behind certain store cards and loans from some finance houses. There has been talk for years by consumer groups and the trade and industry department about banning this practice, but so far there has been no action.

The department originally proposed that customers should have to tick a box to obtain insurance — but the credit industry objected. They knew that their sales of insurance would be cut by half if they changed from negative option selling to positive option selling.



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK

WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

The commission they earn on such insurance sales adds considerably to the profitability of the credit business.

The credit providers and the insurance companies defend inertia selling by claiming that without it, the cost of such insurance would be very much higher because only those people who knew they were likely to claim would apply.

This may be true. But why should anyone pay for insurance he or she does not need, to subsidise others who are genuinely at risk? People who recognise themselves as being in danger of having big credit card debts if they lose their jobs should opt for

insurance. Other customers should not have such insurance dumped on them.

Those at risk should also be able to shop around to buy the best insurance deal on offer, rather than being tied to one being pushed by the credit provider.

Forcing us all to make the conscious choice of opting out of insurance is wrong. The Director General of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, commented on the number of complaints about inertia selling more than a year ago and recommended that consumers should have a free and informed choice on when to buy insurance. But he has not

been heeded. In the meantime, anyone contemplating a change of credit card or taking out a credit agreement should maintain the utmost vigilance. Unwanted policies should be refused. If services are provided unexpectedly, contact the credit company immediately, demand that they be cancelled and that any premiums be refunded.

Will power

The new services which encourage more people to make wills must be welcomed. Far too many people fail to sort out their financial affairs before they die. Often they mistakenly believe that everything will go to their husband or wife.

If someone dies without making a will what they leave behind is allocated to their family according to the rules of intestacy. In England and Wales this means that when there are children, the

surviving spouse is only entitled to all the personal chattels and the first £75,000, plus a life interest in half the remainder. When the second parent dies the children receive the remaining capital which was held in trust.

Not making a will can cause financial problems for the surviving partner. It may also delay any pay-out. Also, the increase in divorce and remarriage makes it vital that time is taken to make a will to ensure that there are no conflicts between first and subsequent families. In one extraordinary case, a widow and mother of two small children is still waiting for her husband's estate to be sorted out seven years after his sudden death.

Professional advice can also help to avoid the unnecessary payment of inheritance tax. Preparing a will can, however, be a loss leader for a financial institution. Be wary if investment advice is proffered. Also check what additional costs will be incurred by the estate. If the bank or solicitor suggests that they should be the executor ask what the charges will be and find out how they compare.

HOLIDAYMAKERS have been urged to take extra care before travelling abroad, after the collapse this week of a specialist tour operator dealing in packages to France (writes Jon Ashworth).

As many as 300 families who booked through Vacances, an Essex company specialising in French cottage holidays, stand to lose all their money in the collapse. Unlike many well-known travel firms, Vacances was unbonded and was not a member of the Association of British Travel Agents.

Clients who paid £1,000 or more for a two-week break are desperately trying to rearrange their bookings this weekend. Most face the prospect of paying the same again, using a separate tour company, if they hope to go ahead with their trips.

The Consumers Association said the collapse came as a warning to holidaymakers to check the status of tour operators before parting with any cash. Kim Winter, of *Holiday Which?*, said it was especially important to check whether they were bonded.

"Before taking a holiday it is important to check for bonding, especially in these times when charter companies and tour operators are going bust almost weekly. If they are not bonded, the chance of getting money back is very low."

Most at risk are those customers who paid for their holiday by cash or cheque. There is better news for those who paid Vacances with plastic, since under consumer credit legislation credit card

Holidaymakers rue collapse of unbonded tour operator

companies will accept joint liability with the company for any losses.

But customers who pay for their holidays by credit card are only covered if they deal directly with the tour operator. Those who pay through a third party, such as a travel agent, will not be covered because the contract between the credit card company and the agent will have been fulfilled.

Tourists who paid Vacances directly by credit card may eventually recover their money, since card companies accept joint liability where at least £100 is involved.

But there will be little joy for those who paid by cash. If the company is placed in liquidation, other creditors will take precedence.

Holiday insurance is also of little comfort. While many packages will compensate travellers for late departure or losses en route, few cover the eventuality of a company going out of business. Large tour operators, including W H Smith, American Express and

Thomas Cook, guarantee all their bookings, but cover themselves by using fully-bonded agents.

Barclaycard advised cardholders caught up in the Vacances collapse to keep all their receipts and submit a claim as soon as possible.

A spokeswoman said clients who were evicted from cottages in France because of the company's collapse could probably claim compensation for the cost of arranging emergency accommodation.

Vacances, which has been trading for at least ten years, has written to its customers, advising them that it has ceased trading. Clients have been referred to another company, Allez France, which has pledged to reschedule as many of the holidays as it can.

David Weston, Allez France's marketing manager, said he had received many calls from clients of Vacances.

He said Ian Chapple, the Vacances managing director, had approached the company to discover if it would take up excess bookings. "We were

telephoned by Vacances on Wednesday morning and told they were going out of business. It's quite a mess. Some people are already abroad and others are waiting to go. Up to 300 families seem to be involved."

Mr Weston said the company was writing to Vacances customers, but said little could be done for those due to travel this weekend.

"We've agreed to contact their customers after this weekend and try to make new arrangements. We can't take over the bookings, but will have to start from scratch. Those who paid by cash or cheque will have had no protection."

New arrangements will be offered to Vacances customers due to take their holidays from next Saturday. In a statement, the company stressed that it had no financial or other connection with Vacances, and it would not be taking over any of Vacances existing bookings.

Allez France would offer to make new arrangements using its own properties. In some cases, it may attempt to persuade cottage owners in France to slot their original guests in as planned, once the new financial arrangements had been taken care of.

Vacances, which was based in Saffron Walden, specialised in one and two week country cottage holidays in France. Families are thought to have paid between £400 to £650 for a fortnight break, but some have spent double that amount. One family paid £1,139 in cash for two weeks.

Directory fraudsters prey on small firms in Britain

By TONY HETHERINGTON

BRITAIN'S small businesses are being given warning that the summer holiday period has brought a wave of bogus invoices from companies claiming to publish fax and telex directories.

The publishing companies, who often use addresses in Switzerland and West Germany, but who have also spread to Denmark and Ireland, issue order forms inviting businesses to have their details included in a directory. Some forms are set out like an invoice, in the hope that an accounts clerk will assume everything is in order and pay them.

Other forms are worded in a complex way so that the person completing them believes they are simply supplying details for free entry in a directory.

In fact, the small print reveals that in accepting the free entry offered, the firm is also consenting to entries that must be paid for, at anything from £300 upwards.

When a demand arrives for the money, and the firm protests, the publishers draw attention to the wording on the order form and threaten to sue if they are not paid immediately.

Jocelyn Jackson-Matthews, of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, believes that the problem is growing. She receives 35 to 40 letters a day from people who have received phoney bills.

The documents usually demand between £80 and £250, and occasionally even more.

"It is a very profitable business. If they have a mailing list of 100,000 and get a 5 per cent hit rate they can make £250,000 or £500,000 profit."

"Those people who do not pay up often receive a bogus notice of court proceedings with a case and hearing number. They then ring us up and ask if we are sure they should not pay up."

Ms Jackson-Matthews said



Small print: completing a form like this can be costly

there was a simple way to distinguish between a bogus invoice and bills from bona fide directories. The document should be checked for the word invoice.

The bogus ones usually do not use the term, as demanding money with the word invoice would contravene the Unsolicited Goods and Services Acts 1971 and 1975.

If anyone is in doubt they should look for a telephone number on the statement. Genuine companies always provide a contact number. The bogus firms are difficult to trace as they mail items via South Africa or Denmark, and require money to be sent to places such as Zurich or Hamburg.

The association says fraudsters are operating more than ten phoney directory swindles, including one run from an address in Brussels.

One company that has resisted the swindlers is Bishops Limited, a wholesale newsagency in Hampshire.

The company was sent a lengthy form inviting it to have its name, address and fax number entered in a new International Telefax Directory.

The form asked for confirmation that the business was based at "Eastleigh", in

"Sootsampton", rather than the correct address of Eastleigh, near Southampton. Errors of this sort are often used deliberately by directory publishers to spur companies into responding rather than risk having their free entry spoiled.

However, Mary House, Bishops' personnel manager, had seen similar documents in the past. Buried in the fine print, she found a condition that said that by signing the form giving details for the free entry, she would also be agreeing to three paid-for insertions in the directory, at a total cost of 4,390 Swiss francs, about £1,750.

She ignored the order form, but the publishers did not give up. "They wrote to say that if we did not reply within seven days they would assume we had placed an order," she said. "We just put the letter in the bin, and now we are waiting to see what they try next."

The forms received by Bishops came from a firm called Telcom, which is owned by Trawo Information AG, a company registered in Switzerland but run from Cologne, West Germany.

The authorities in Australia have warned companies to beware of any contact with Telcom. Businesses there have received large invoices after signing forms that appeared to do no more than consent to a free entry in Telcom's International World Edition Telex Directory.

In London, Detective Chief Superintendent Tony McGraw, deputy head of the Metropolitan Police fraud squad, said his officers were aware of an upsurge in demands for money from bogus directory publishers.

"They hope that by issuing demands during the summer holiday period their invoice will be met by a junior member of staff because the person who normally checks invoices is away," he said.

"The same applies to order forms. All staff members must be careful what they sign as it could be claimed they are committing their company to a fee."

"These people are all abroad, outside UK jurisdiction, so all we can do is warn businesses not to pay if they receive an invoice for unsolicited goods or services."

The Confederation of British Industry has also given warning against the directory swindlers.

Judith Vincent, head of the CBI's company and commercial law department, said some publishers were using a new technique to target victims.

"We have started to see documents coming from a number of specialist directories," she said. "One, for example, is aimed at computer companies, and there is another for the legal profession."

The CBI has called on the government to change the law to make succeeding tougher for international swindlers.

"Cross-border fraud is growing and that is a matter for serious concern," said Miss Vincent. "We want the law changed to make it possible to bring a prosecution here, even if the fraudsters and their companies are abroad."

JAMES GRAY

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Boots staff investments transferred

THE Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society is to take over the investments of staff at Boots, the high street chemists chain, subject to the approval of the policyholders. Boots Life Assurance, which sells mainly with-profits insurance policies to its 110,000 members of staff, is to transfer engagements to the Tunbridge Wells.

Policyholders' funds totalling £42 million are involved. The Tunbridge Wells will manage them separately and will sell policies linked to the fund to Boots staff.

The transfer, brought about by the Financial Services Act,

is the first time an insurance company has moved funds to a friendly society. Such a move was only made possible at the beginning of last month through an amendment to section 49 of the Insurance Companies Act.

In a letter to investors, the chairman of Boots Life said that the Financial Services Act had led to "considerable additional administrative and management burdens being placed upon Boots Life".

He added: "For a smaller financial institution such as Boots Life, the costs of meeting these obligations are disproportionately high in com-

parison with larger institutions whose size allows them to spread these costs over a wider base of business."

Until the policyholders have voted on the changes at a special general meeting, Boots Life will accept no new policy proposals.

Performance by Boots Life has not been published but has equalled the top performing life companies. The Tunbridge Wells has been in the top ten life assurance companies and friendly societies for eight out of the last nine years.

The Boots Life performance has been assisted by not

having to advertise or pay commission. Premiums are also deducted from the payroll, reducing banking costs. Most of these benefits will be available to the Tunbridge Wells for Boots' business.

Peter Gray, of the Tunbridge Wells, said the £112 million society had had its market restricted by the Financial Services Act because most building societies had tied to insurance companies. Before they were limited to the investment business of one insurance company, many societies had offered friendly society products.



Deluge of complaints: Jocelyn Jackson-Matthews believes the problem of phoney bills is growing in Britain

Captain of Trafalgar always gets his own way

By CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS PROFILE

Sir Nigel Brookes

LIKE the only child that he is, Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, the Cunard, Ritz Hotel, engineering and house building conglomerate, is a man who always gets his own way.

"He always has to," says his devoted wife Joyce, after 34 years of marriage and three children. "Most human beings, after all, would like to," she concedes. "It's just that Nigel is in a position to make sure that he does."

Brookes does not deny the accusation. "But it's because I know that I'm always right," he argues. "There is no point in false modesty."

Brookes, aged 56, has certainly been extraordinarily successful. He had lost almost all of a £30,000 inheritance by the time he was 23, on bad property deals. But when his back was against the wall, he injected his last remaining property asset, a block of seven flats in London's Great Cumberland Place, into the fledgling Trafalgar.

He went on to become Trafalgar's managing director at the age of 24, was a millionaire four years later and chairman of the company by the time he was 35. "He is either one of the greatest geniuses of British corporate life of the last 25 years, or it is all an act," says one City observer.

John
show
a silk
tong

Although Brookes is not and has never been a hands-on manager — he has always had either Victor Matthews or, nowadays, Eric Parker, to act as his chief executive — he is, he says, responsible for "ideas and judgment". His contribution is acknowledged as such. "In a business sense he is a very able strategic thinker," adds the City observer. "He can see the business not only as it is today, but as it should be tomorrow, next year, or in ten years. And he is aware of his own limitations. He has never liked working at the coal face, doing the donkey work."

In Victor Matthews he found the ideal partner. They were never close personally, deliberately so, but as a working duo they were really quite outstanding. By his own admission, however, Brookes was closer to Matthews than he will ever be to Parker.

But whatever his associated professional relationships, Brookes, along with Lord Hanson and Sir James Goldsmith, is one of the few surviving whiz-kids of the early Sixties.

When Trafalgar was floated on the stock market in 1963, it was capitalised at £4 million, with gross assets of £10 million. Brookes held a 28 per cent stake. Today it has a market capitalisation of £1.3 billion, assets of £2 billion and the Brookes family holding is worth more than £11 million.

He refuses to reveal his total personal net worth but admits that it is "considerably more" than double the value of his Trafalgar stake. A lot of that money is tied up in assets, which include palatial Checkendon Court in Oxfordshire, a weekday Oliver Hill-designed house in Chelsea Square, described by one visitor as "perhaps the most enviable house in London", and another mansion near Nice, France, one of the finest properties overlooking the Riviera, and also designed by Hill.

"He was the only architect who really followed Lutyens," explains Brookes. His wife adds: "We bought both houses in the same year and only discovered that they were both by Hill afterwards."

Anchored in a Mediterra-

nean harbour near their French home lies *Cardigras VI*, a 130-foot yacht staffed all year round by a crew of seven. It notches up an annual bill of about £180,000.

If Brookes were to charter her out, the daily rate would be £5,000. Gunter Sachs once chartered her to visit Brigitte Bardot on her birthday. But Brookes seldom permits it to be hired out any more. It can, he says, prove inconvenient if he wants to use her at weekends. "I enjoy my wealth. I'm not embarrassed by it," says Brookes. "I've earned it, after all. I worked for it all myself."

So what is it that drives Brookes after so many years? After so much success, most people would find it hard to stay motivated. "Some of the creativity goes as you get older, but I don't feel old. And Trafalgar House still fascinates me, in all its constituent parts."

He admits that, after 35 years, the prospect of ever leaving Trafalgar frightens him, and he is not a man one can imagine taking to retirement easily.

"He is happy," says his wife, "but he could be happier. He needs something else to do, in addition to Trafalgar."

Brookes, in short, needs to be kept fully occupied. Earlier external posts have included a five-year stint as chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, a near full-time post that prompted him to resign from the Victoria and Albert Museum advisory council and the Royal Opera House Trust.

He resigned from the LDDC in 1984 so that Trafalgar could become involved in development in Docklands.

"I do not want to do

'I know I'm always right. There's no point in false modesty... I'm a typical Cancerian, crusty on the outside but soft underneath'

anything different to Trafalgar House as my main core activity," he insists, "but if there was another LDDC or a nationalised industry that needed to be privatised, that sufficiently interested me, then I would be tempted." He is certainly still young enough for a second career.

The recent prospect of Trafalgar being a potential rival to Hanson's mooted acquisition of PowerGen, would delight his wife.

"Whenever a takeover bid comes along it's wonderful," she says. "He sits in the corner with all his documents, and is never happier."

But Brookes seems keen to play down the PowerGen speculation — that Trafalgar might link up with PowerGen's management to effect a management buyout — although he admits that tentative internal discussions have taken place.

"We are not in a bid posture or anything like that, but we are aware of what is going on and we are on good terms with the management."

As for Hanson's involvement, he says, the government must have received professional advice that an issue to the general public was not going to go very well.

"But how on earth they can get into a single bid situation



Proud of his wealth: Sir Nigel Brookes and Joyce, his wife of 34 years, outside their Oliver Hill-designed mansion near Nice, overlooking the French Riviera, one of several homes they own

and pay the guy's costs... I can think of no other explanation than that they know something nasty and we don't."

Having once owned the Express group of newspapers and the *Evening Standard*, he does not rule out the possibility of Trafalgar buying its way back into Fleet Street at some stage.

"I like newspapers and I enjoy the company of journalists, but we wouldn't go anywhere near the Express again. It would have to be something else."

Indeed, one of his house guests when I interviewed Brookes during his annual month-long holiday at his French home, was Freddie Fisher, editor of the *Financial Times* until 1980.

Such guests are evidently there to entertain him. He withdraws from them when he is bored. When he wants their attention at the dinner or luncheon table, he demands it instantly, regardless of other conversations in which they might be involved.

"He is insufferably pompous and conceited," says one old friend. "But he also has some very endearing qualities. And once you have known someone for so many years you like them regardless."

"He is prone to pomposity," says another, a little more diplomatically, in Brookes' presence. "But behind that lies a real passion. Brookes does not disagree. For whatever else he is, he is always honest. He is also a generous host, keen to share the spoils of his success. But although a cigar is never far from his hand, 'no more than five a day', he insists — and he is renowned

for keeping a well-stocked bar, he is appalled at descriptions of him as a 'bon viveur'."

"Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm very unclubbable and reclusive. I hate cocktail parties and we only go out to a public restaurant about twice a year."

Yet for a man so frequently dismissed as "laid back" by those who encounter him superficially, his close friends continually tease him about his obsession with punctuality. "It's essential, otherwise everything would disintegrate into anarchy."

His wife reveals that it has not been unknown for him to leave houseguests stranded on the quayside if they are five minutes late for an agreed rendezvous with the family yacht or one of its tenders.

"They will all be waving frantically and shouting but he will refuse to go back. He feels he has to make a point."

When it comes to clothes or appearances, however, he is not a vain man, although he was upset when a journalist once described him as wearing black patent leather shoes.

"They were ordinary black leather, just very highly polished."

His wife, a former model who once appeared in Guinness posters in the London Underground, describes him as "an observer rather than a participant, a loner at heart. And when he wants to be left alone, he must be left alone."

Still an attractive and impressively spirited woman, she is aware of his feet of clay, but says that she still likes him even if, after 30 years, the "love thing" has had its ups and downs.

"He is always very controlled, unemotional and he does get bored easily. But when it comes to business he has an amazing instinct, an uncanny knack for doing the right thing at the right time. People often consult him about their problems." But

business problems, seldom personal ones.

His well-publicised hobby as a silversmith is, Joyce suggests, a means for him to vent his pent-up frustrations and anger. "It's all that bashing on metal, that's what he really enjoys," she says, although an arthritic hip now restricts such physical exertion.

Within his business arena, he is accepted as an experienced and respected authority on property — a man who should always be listened to. His views at the moment are interesting.

He describes the general property market as "as sick as it was in the mid-Seventies, although the financing is not as dodgy as it was then". But he admits that, since it is a very nominal market at the moment, the correction will take some time and "it is unlikely to return to normal conditions, if you can call the mid-Eighties normal, for a long while."

For home owners he is more

optimistic. The residential market will, he says, respond much more quickly, since housebuilders, certainly among the top five — which includes Trafalgar — have halved production.

"We stopped buying land in May 1988, simply because it got too expensive and there was obviously trouble on the way. But I think we have seen the worst. We are at the bottom now and there will be a cut in interest rates, perhaps three or four points, this side of Christmas."

He is also still "passionately" interested in the Channel Tunnel. He was chairman of the unsuccessful Eurotunnel consortium and remains convinced that its proposal for both a rail tunnel and a road bridge was, without doubt, the correct one. A bridge will, he believes, eventually be built, "perhaps in about 12 years time."

"Alistair Morton tells me that I will go to my grave thinking about bridges," says

Brookes. "I tell him that he will go to his grave knowing that I was right." Eurotunnel, after all, represents one of the rare occasions when he has not had his own way.

For a man whose company regularly gives £50,000 to the Conservative Party — £90,000 in an election year — he is readily critical of the government when he considers it warranted. His disillusionment with authority began at an early age. His father, a lawyer and fanatic about the Territorial Army before the war, died when Brookes was eight.

"He was a very tough man. I was only five when he joined the army. He was wounded and then he died from peritonitis just after Dieppe."

As it was deemed by the government to be a civilian injury, his widowed mother received no army pension.

He was sent away to Stowe by his wealthy paternal grandparents but they refused to give him any additional

income because she had declined an invitation to move into their house.

"They were just selfish and I think she was quite right to retain her independence," Brookes says. He admits that he felt uncomfortable at public school. He left at 16.

"It meant that at a very early age I was determined to make money, so that I would always be independent and never salaried. I'd seen how hard times could affect a family and yet I knew that with money you could get up into the clouds and stay there. I hope I never have to come down to earth."

"I'm a typical Cancerian," he enlarges, "crusty on the outside but soft underneath. But I only let one or two people through that crusty shell."

Now not even his wife can crack that crusty exterior he erected so long ago. "He is a very complex man, a showman, but even after all these years I still don't really know him," she says.

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Banking on happier love affair

THE star of Paris this sweltering August is the city itself. It has rarely looked better. Old mansions and belle époque buildings are well-scrubbed and gleaming, and cultural palaces are packed with tourists, the infantry of an industry that has added several billion dollars to its dimension since last year's bicentennial extravaganza.

Paris's urban transport system works like a dream. Giant sightseeing boats on the Seine have been joined by little water taxis. There is so much to do. When I first saw Paris two decades ago, the streets looked as if the German army was round the corner. Germans on the streets now — tourists — look happy, so why are the French morose and worrying about money? All looks well on the surface at the local bank.

Take mine, for example, an important branch of the Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) on the Champs-Élysées — not very big, but flourishing. The style is more that of a café or a cocktail lounge. Customers pour through the doors, lean on the counters and chat with the young, friendly staff.

The French clientele is made up of Champs-Élysées business, film and racing people. The tens of thousands of foreign customers are comprised of buyers and sellers, models and photographers. Unfortunately, things in the cosy world of French banking, where the bankers have long enjoyed a fairly protected life, are changing. The big three banks — BNP, Credit Lyonnais and Société Générale — have made hefty provisions for Third World debt. My bank has a 60 per cent cover.

And the 1992 deregulation of the European Community's banking market is giving some bankers sleepless nights.

CAPITAL CITY

FROM ALAN TILLIER IN PARIS



Flourishing Champs-Élysées

Competition can only get worse. Now, there is the problems in the Gulf and a sharply-falling stock market.

French banks refuse to pay any interest on current accounts. Charges for handling smaller cheques are greater than the cheques themselves. Cheques from abroad are held by the banks for two months or more before being credited to customers' accounts. The banks make use of the money, while leaving you "checked out". Sociologists

say that bankers are worrying about 1992. Other experts predict moroseness, or bloody-mindedness, among other sections of the French population. The French are looking inward.

Geopolitics is a long way from the little tricks in my local bank (and in others). It is said that if you change £1,000 from one currency to another, and then repeat the operation, you have lost half your money through charges by the time you reach the sixth money change operation. Still, national and street-level ways of doing things reflect the eternal characteristics of the French, once described by Jacques Fauvet, then editor of *Le Monde*, as "conservative, peasant and intellectual".

Well, they are being careful in their affairs — and perhaps the BNP is engaged in peasant-style hoarding. Intellectual? Well, the morning state radio news has not bombarded listeners with continuous news of the Gulf. An intellectual came on one day this week to talk about "the war". It became clear that he was talking about the Trojan War. Then someone else talked of the delights of the Burgundy countryside.

I pinched myself and went off to the bank to cash a cheque. There an English lady friend began telling me of her mother-in-law's problems with another state bank. They had switched equity investment account money into a new savings account without telling her. This time, the irate lady went to Veronique Neiertz, state secretary at the finance ministry in charge of protecting the consumer.

Someone else in the queue said it was due to France's "unhappy love affair" with Iraq — embraces, money, gifts, broken promises... la vie...

SATURDAY AUGUST 11 1990

SUMMARY

All change for tourist charges

TOURISTS in Britain and on the Continent may soon be able to change money free of charge, thanks to the efforts of Sir Leon Brittan, the European commissioner for competition. *Weekend Money* looks ahead to the changes, which could take place this autumn, but warns holiday-makers to beware of bureaux de changes which often charge 9.8 per cent or more in commission. Page 38.

Rich rewards



Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, the name behind London's Ritz Hotel and the QE2, was a millionaire at 28. Four years earlier he was all but penniless, as Carol Leonard discovered. Page 41.

Home help

Help is at hand for house buyers who find their homes have a serious defect, after a home owner was awarded £98,000 in the High Court this week. Page 39.

Ransom risk

Thousands of travellers are turning to a new form of insurance protecting against the risk of kidnapping and ransom. It provides a package of benefits and crisis management measures. Page 39.

Will writers

Many banks and building societies will offer a new, more comprehensive will-making service to their customers from this autumn. And as new will-writing services spring up around the country, the Law Society has warned potential customers that there is no compensation scheme to protect them if things go wrong. Page 40.

Your views

It's an estimate and final demand from Southern Electric.



The £48,000 limit under the Investors' Compensation Scheme is not high enough, according to *Weekend Money* readers, who look at the pitfalls of hiring a car in America, and say why they prefer cash to bankers drafts. Page 41.

Dole support

A new-style income protection plan providing counselling and cash in case of unemployment is to be launched later this month by the Independent Benefit Society. Page 40.

Tour collapse

The collapse of a tour operator specialising in cottage holidays in France comes as a timely warning to holiday-makers to check the credentials of their agent before parting with any cash. The company, Vacances, was not protected by any bond, and travellers who paid cash stand to lose all. Page 42.

Fax fraud

Small businesses have been warned to watch out for false invoices from companies claiming to publish fax and telex directories. Taking advantage of the holiday period when junior staff are often left in charge, the companies send order forms inviting a listing in a directory. The hidden cost often turns out to be £300 or more. Page 42.

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Rumours of war and recession are not all gloom for shrewd market watchers

Investment experts swim against the tide

By RUPERT BRUCE

WHEN the first Lord Rothschild was asked if his family had a secret formula for making money, he was reputed to have said that they always sold too soon. He was probably the best-known contracyclical investor, something most fund managers in the City claim to be.

A contracyclical investor buys or sells against the tide of popular opinion. Ideally, a sale is made when everyone is most optimistic — generally at the top of the market. A purchase is made when everyone is most gloomy — when shares are at their cheapest.

That is not to say people should rush and buy now because President Saddam has upset economists and stock market strategists. The economic effects of invasion in the Gulf and higher oil prices are, as yet, far from clear. But the ensuing panic over either stagflation, inflation, deflation, recession, or a blend of the four, will provide buying opportunities at some stage for the brave fund manager.

The M&G recovery fund is the biggest, oldest and probably the most successful of the truly contracyclical unit trusts.

It was set up 18 years ago to invest in companies that everyone else thought were going to go bust. Since then the fund's units have appreciated by 4,000 per cent, compared with the FTA All-Share Index's modest 700 per cent.

Richard Hughes, the fund's present manager, said: "The fact is that not all of the companies go bust and those that recover do very well."

If the £700 million fund were to invest £7 million in a company and it went bust that would be regrettable, but the loss would be limited. If the company were to recover, the upside would be limitless, and the investment might grow to £40 million.

In practice, only 14 companies held by the fund have ever gone bust. This compares with many successes, the most recent tending to date from Britain's last recession in the early Eighties.

M&G invested in many engineering companies being

squeezed towards bankruptcy and was handsomely rewarded for its faith.

Birmid Qualecast was bought for about 20p a share and held until taken over in late 1988 by Blue Circle for 450p a share.

Now the fund is entering another hectic period in which Mr Hughes has plenty of opportunities to rebuild its portfolio. Although he does not consciously look for sectors that are out of favour, inevitably he has been buying stores, housebuilders and property companies recently. All three are being hurt by high interest rates, and the latter by a glut of office space.

Retailers he has sought include Storehouse, Sears, and Lowndes Queensway. He has bought Storehouse in the belief that the management team is dedicated to changing the way the company is run, rather than just waiting for lower interest rates. Lowndes Queensway, bought at 5p a share and now languishing at about 1.5p a share, has not been successful so far.

Ferranti, the electronics company, represents a typical investment. Subsidiaries have been sold and there is a rights issue underway. Mr Hughes bought shares after Sir Derek Alun-Jones, its former chairman, stepped down in favour of Eugene Anderson last February.

"All the elements of a dramatic reverse in the company's fortunes were there. A collapse in the share price, a change in management and a refinancing," said Mr Hughes.

He is also a great believer in smaller companies. They are out of favour now, but traditionally they are during periods of slowing economic growth. Smaller company shares typically underperformed larger companies between 1973 and 1976, and 1979 and 1982, according to the smaller companies index compiled by Horeau Govett, the stockbroker. Now they are underperforming again.

The small companies fund run by John Govett & Co, the investment manager, has been the best-



Timing is crucial: Tom Walford, of John Govett, looks to buy when underpriced companies are reaching the end of a cycle of decline

performing smaller companies unit trust. The trust, which absorbed the company's special opportunities fund yesterday, has in the past prompted a question in the House of Commons after buying stocks in anticipation of takeover bids.

Some thought it had an uncanny degree of success.

At the moment, its UK small companies fund has 15 per cent of its money invested in cash, a very defensive stance for any equity fund.

But until Middle East war mongering created a cloud over the world economy ten days ago, Govett was planning to invest that

cash. Nick Watts, investment director of John Govett, said: "If you had asked us last Wednesday night as opposed to Thursday morning, we would have said we were planning to buy stock in the next six months."

"In the light of events last week there is a question mark over inflationary pressures in the world and interest rates, and, therefore, economic growth prospects have been damaged."

"The prospect for a recovery in smaller companies is still there, but has moved out by months rather than weeks."

Because smaller companies are so neglected by the City, they are

not as thoroughly researched as larger companies. So while ICT's management, assets and trading performance is being scrutinised by City analysts, many smaller companies are hardly glanced at.

Experienced fund managers like Tom Walford, who manages Govett's fund, have a golden opportunity to search out companies underpriced by the stock market.

Dr Walford said: "Timing is crucial. Starting to buy the share just as it is going into the decline process is wrong."

"What you are trying to do is to buy a share after it has been that way for two years. After each

period of underperformance smaller companies bounce back and outperform until the next recession."

Scotecs like Guy Rigden, director of strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, would argue that there are not many contracyclical investors among fund managers.

"What they are really doing is just guessing what the next trend is going to be. They just get earlier and earlier," he said.

Perhaps the true contrarian would be looking for an opportunity to buy transport stocks he believes have fallen too far in fear of higher fuel costs.

Spectre of the Seventies returns

By BARBARA ELLIS

WAR in the Middle East and a sudden rise in the oil price threatens world recession. At home, inflation heads for 10 per cent and hard-pressed home-buyers struggle to meet record payments with house prices falling. But we have seen it all before.

On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel. Ten days later, Arab countries led by Saudi Arabia began the round of price increases and production cuts that tripled the price of oil to over \$11 a barrel by the end of the year.

Between November 1 and December 15, the British stock market fell 25 per cent. Heaviest selling was in big energy users such as motors, which dropped by nearly 40 per cent.

When the miners banned over-

time in November, the Heath government declared a state of emergency and a three-day working week.

From January to December 1974, the FT index, already 44 per cent below its 1972 peak, more than halved from 344 to 160. The market bottomed in December 1974, when a group of institutions deliberately set out to buy. The market had more than doubled by the end of March 1975 to within 10 per cent of its level a year earlier, but inflation meant it was 25 per cent lower in real terms. During 1973-74 investors lost an annual average on equities of 48.9 per cent in real terms. The average loss on gilts was 3.5 per cent.

The gold price rose steadily from \$60 to a peak of \$120 in the first half of 1973, in part catching

up after 34 years pegged at an official \$35 an ounce. Powered by high inflation and low or negative real interest rates, gold rose to \$200 by the end of 1974.

In personal finance, then as now, interest rates and inflation were major preoccupations. In an attack on credit in November 1973, Anthony Barber, the Conservative chancellor, trebled the minimum repayment on credit cards to 15 per cent of outstanding balances.

A new Labour government pressured the building societies to hold mortgages at 11 per cent, lending them £500 million to help. And campaigning in August 1974 for the second of that year's elections, Mrs Thatcher promised a 9.5 per cent rate by Christmas if the Conservatives won.



Hot line: worried unit holders seek assurances from Fidelity Investment Services' freephone staff

Unit trust holders look for reassurance in face of strife

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

LARGE numbers of unit trust investors have been seeking reassurance from investment groups this week after events in the Gulf. But only a small proportion have either cashed in or switched their investments to other funds.

The number of calls on Fidelity Investment Services' freephone line doubled at the beginning of the week. Victoria Phillip said that the majority of callers wanted information about unit prices, advice on what was going to happen to markets and whether they should sell.

"We usually say that unit-holders have got to look to the long term, but if they are cautious we suggest moving into the cash unit trust which has no initial charge." Of those who transferred out of the group's larger funds such as Europe, Japan Special Situations, S.E. Asia and American trusts, approximately a third had moved into its cash unit trust.

This is currently paying 14.97 per cent gross and investors who move into it can buy other Fidelity units later at a 3 per cent discount. "It is a parking place for people nervous of the markets."

The group does not have any

commodity funds to attract new money and has also noticed a move into its fixed-interest funds. It has seen net redemptions since the invasion of Kuwait, whereas normally sales of units exceed the number cashed in.

At MIM Britannia there was a flurry of enquiries on Monday and a few substantial repurchases, but very few unit sales since then. Some investors have moved into the group's cash fund and there have been a lot of enquiries about its gold and commodity funds.

Keith Crowley, the marketing director, said: "We have had a large amount of enquiries and a small but growing number of people are wanting to transfer into the traditional bolt-holes. It is such a confused situation that most people do not have strong views. Often by the time they get round to telephoning the market has already fallen and they decide not to sell. It will be interesting to see if we get more people wanting to buy funds after they have fallen than we did in 1987."

This week several of their MIM Britannia's funds were 50 to 80 per cent above the post-crash level.

Save & Prosper has made net

sales as investors have been attracted by its energy fund. Ken Emery said: "Hopefully they are not investing after the price has peaked."

The group does not provide a free phone service and had received few enquiries and no signs of panic among investors.

M&G, which has more unit-holders than any other group, still has most of its funds on an offer basis instead of the lower bid basis, which indicates that there are more sellers than buyers. The company's customer services department had not received more calls than usual and the group had not seen much switching from one fund to another.

Tim Miller said: "I think that unit-holders are beginning to take this sort of thing in their stride."

Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities said he was not advising investors to sell because he was not expecting a prolonged bear market. "I looked at selling a couple of investment trusts, but the market-makers had widened the spread so much that the market would have had to come down 8 to 10 per cent for the investor to come back in."

GOLD
THE DISASTER HEDGE

For centuries gold has been the traditional hedge against economic disasters, internal strife and wars. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the current military build-up in the Arabian Gulf has highlighted the appeal of gold as an investment during these uncertain times.

Since the beginning of July the price of gold bullion in London has risen from US\$357 to US\$388 and shares in gold-related companies have started to move ahead.

Save & Prosper's Gold & Exploration Fund is currently 85% invested in these gold shares, with 37% of its portfolio in the USA, 23% in South Africa, 21% in Canada and 15% in Australia.

Although shares in gold-related companies tend to be speculative investments, we believe that with the current uncertainties in the Gulf, investors should consider having up to 5% of their portfolio in this sector.

For more details of Save & Prosper's Gold & Exploration Fund call us today on our free Moneyline: 0800 282 101.

FREE MONEYLINE 0800 282 101
9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK



THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and past performance is not a guarantee of future success. Save & Prosper Group Ltd. is a member of IMRO and Lantoro.